**VOLUME 13, ISSUE 20 | www.orissapost.com** 

PC'S SECRET OF SUCCESS

Actor Priyanka Chopra explains the reason why too many Indian actors haven't broken into Hollywood the way she has

LEISURE P2



## SEVERE HEATWAVE

A severe heatwave with record-breaking temperatures has swept across many parts of Asia affecting normal life

INTERNATIONAL P10



## **LOT TO PLAY FOR**

With DC having lost all their 5 games, the match today against KKR would be a do-or-die one for them SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

**BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 2023** 



Pradesh leaving one loco pilot dead and five others injured

### **UGC SEEKS USE OF LOCAL LANGUAGES**

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked universities to allow students to write exams in local languages even if the course is offered in English medium, while arranging evaluators and encouraging the translation of textbooks, according to chairman M Jagadesh Kumar, The Commission has also asked universities to promote local languages in teaching and learning processes. "Promotion and regular use of Indian languages in education is a crucial area of focus in the new National Education Policy (NEP)," Kumar said.

#### **COUSINS DROWN** IN BALASORE POND

Balasore: Two cousins drowned Wednesday while bathing in Budhabalanga river near Patuka Sasan village under Remuna block in Balasore district. The deceased were identified as Tusharkanta Panda, 17, son of Gvanaranian Panda in the village and the latter's nephew Bikash Panda, 8, a native of Guhyapala village on the fringes of Jharkhand. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the area after reports of their deaths spread.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



these. These will answer all the questions, Mr Minister sir!

## Survey of Mahanadi begins

**BLAME GAME STARTS WITH CHHATTISGARH CM BLAMING ODISHA FOR DISPUTE** 

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 19: The Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal began the field survey from Farsiya village, the origin point of the river in Chhattisgarh. A three-member panel comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur Kochhar along with assessors and the registrar began the survey. They were accompanied by teams of Odisha and Chhattisgarh governments.

The tribunal conducted surveys at Farsiya village and nearby areas in Sihawa. The second day's visit will conclude at Sondur, where the team will inspect a dam on Sondur river. On day three, Murumsili dam, Ravi Shankar Sagar reservoir and the new Rudri barrage would be covered.

The tribunal would cover four sites on day four namely Temari Minor Tank at Dhamdha, Udaypur Tank at Khairagarh, proposed

Siddh Baba Minor Tank at Chhuikhadan and Pipariya dam at Chhuikhadan. On the last day of phase one, the tribunal will visit Rajiv Samoda Nisda diversion and Samoda barrage, sources said.

The tribunal will conduct the survey in Chhattisgarh in two phases to study the flow of water downstream and the availability and use of water during the non-monsoon season. The first phase will conclude April 22.

Contd...P4

**Take Precautions** 

# India world's most populous nation: UN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 19: India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, as per the latest UN data released Wednesday. China now has a population of 142.57 crore and hence it has slipped to

According to a UNFPA's 'State of the World Population Report' (SWOP) 2023, about 25 per cent of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18 per cent in 10 to 19 years group, 26 per cent in the age bracket of 10 to 24 years, 68 per cent in 15 to 64 years age group and seven per cent above 65 years.

The population demographics of India vary from state to state. Kerala and Punjab have an ageing population while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a young population, the report said. This is the first time India has topped the UN list of most populous countries since it started collecting population data in 1950.

The report also states that by 2050, India's population is expected to rise to 166.8 crore while China's head count would dip to 131.7 crore.

The report also stated that the

global population is grow-

ing at its slowest rate since

1950, having fallen under one

per cent in 2020. According to 'the

World Population Prospects-2022',

India's population last year was 141.2

crore while China's stood at 142.6

crore. The report said the global

population was projected to reach

Andrea Wojnar, the representa-

tive for United Nations Population

Fund (UNFPA) India and the coun-

try director for Bhutan, said,

"India's 1.4 billion people must be

seen as 1.4 billion opportunities. As

the country with the largest youth

cohort – its 254 million youths (15-

24 years) - can be a source of in-

novation, new thinking and lasting

eight billion on November 15.

Nearly 1/4th of India's population is under the age of 14, according to to UN data

for males in India is **71** 

while for females it is

Currently India has 254 million people in the 15 to 24 years age group

efforts to boost it in solutions. The trajectory can leapfrog forward if women and girls, in particular, are equipped with equal educational and skill building opportunities.

Wojnar asserted that ensuring gender equality, empowerment and advancing greater bodily autonomy for women and girls are the key determinants for a sustainable future. "Women and girls should be at the centre of sexual and reproductive policies and programmes. When rights, choices and equal value of all people are truly respected and held, only then can we unlock a future of infinite possibilities,' the UN official said.

DSPL-14

## Woman raped in Bhub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 19: A 32-year-old woman has allegedly been raped at her residence in Gajapati Nagar locality under Mancheswar police limits here, police said Wednesday.

The accused, Mrutuniav Patra, 36, of Kendrapara, regularly bought groceries from the victim's store, inspector incharge (IIC) Sudhir Kumar Sahoo said, quoting the complaint on the basis of which a case (No 167/23) was registered.

Patra had borrowed ₹50.000 from the woman for a month. Later, he continued to buy time on flimsy excuses whenever the victim asked the accused to return the money. In the last week of March, the victim called up Patra and insisted that the latter return the money as soon as possible. Patra assured her

that he would repay the entire loan amount by the end of the month.

"On March 29, Patra reached the victim's place to repay the amount. Finding the woman alone, Patra forced himself on her," informed the IIC, citing the victim's complaint. He added that Patra carried out the act taking advantage of the fact that the husband of the woman was away.

Police said the accused even videographed the incident and threatened the woman of dire consequences if she dared to reveal the matter to her husband. The victim, however, mustered courage and approached the police who registered a case and launched a probe April 18.

'The victim has been medically examined at Capital Hospital. Efforts are on to nab Patra who is absconding since the incident," Sahu said.

fall April 22 onwards for a few days. 43 degrees and above.

## Temperatures over 40°C in 30 places of Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Extreme heatwave conditions continued to grip the state Wednesday with mercury breaching the 40 degrees Celsius mark at 30 places in Odisha. However, there is some hope for relief with the IMD stating that some parts of Odisha may receive rain-

As per the IMD bulletin, Baripada continued to sizzle and was the hottest place in Odisha registering a maximum temperature of 44.5 degrees Celsius. A total of 11 places registered temperatures of

## Siraj reports 'corrupt approach'

The incident is once again a reminder of the threat from bookies who still continue to haunt *Indian cricket and bring to memory the 2013 scandal when IPL was rocked by 'fixing'* 

regarding RCB and the IPL when he

had called Siraj. The bowler reported

the approach immediately. The law

enforcement (Andhra Police) author-

ities have nabbed the person," the

It is understood that the gambler

had lost a lot of money dur-

ing the India games and

messaged Siraj out of

sheer frustration and had

also asked how he can re-

cover the money by betting in IPL matches.

The BCCI had

beefed up its

ACU net-

work ever

since the

spot-fixing scandal, in-

volving S

Sreesanth,

Chavan, Aiit Chandila

and then

Chennai

Ankeet

source added.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 19: India and RCB fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has reported a 'corrupt approach' to BCCI's anti-corruption unit (ACU) from an unknown person, who wanted 'inside news' about both the national team and the IPL franchise before Australia arrived in the country for a full-fledged tour in February this year, sources in the cricket board said Wednesday. The India pacer, who is playing for RCB in the ongoing IPL, had promptly informed the ACU on the development. The incident just goes to prove that bookies still are quite active in India.

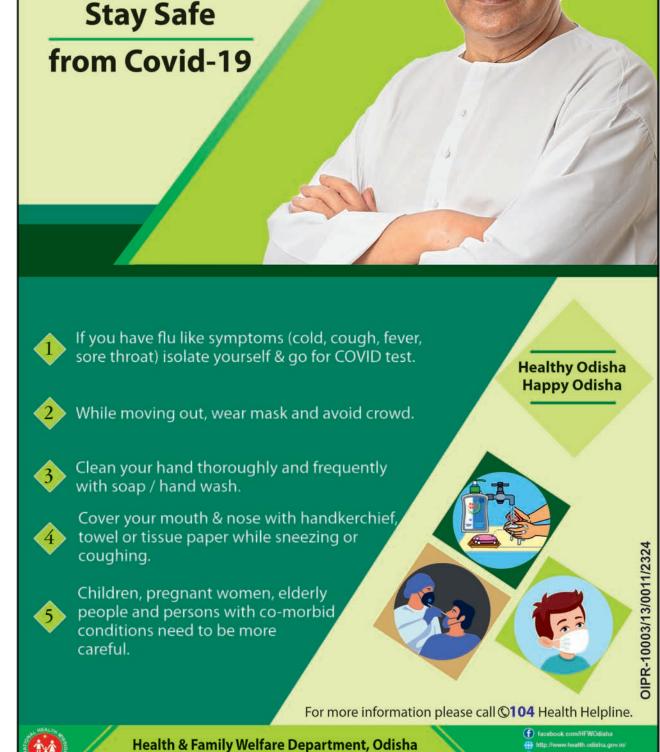
BCCI sources however, were not ready to term the person as a 'bookie'. "It wasn't a bookie who approached Siraj. He is a driver from Hyderabad who is addicted to betting on India matches. He had approached Siraj via WhatsApp after losing a lot of money on India games," a senior BCCI source, privy to the developments stated on condition of anonymity.

"The man also asked for information

### THIEVES STRIKE DC New Delhi: In a shocking incident ahead

of Delhi Capitals (DC) next IPL fixture against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), bats worth lakhs of rupees and other equipment of players have gone missing from their kit bags. As per sources, 16 bats, pads, shoes, thigh-pads and gloves have been stolen from the players' kit bags once they arrived Sunday in the capital from Bangalore after their match against RCB. Among those who have lost iequipment are David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Phil Salt and Yash Dhull. An official complaint has been lodged in this regard by DC officials.

> Super Kings (CSK) team principal Gurunath Meiyappan, was unearthed in 2013. Now. each IPL team has a dedicated ACU official who stays in the same hotel and is there at the ground monitoring all the movements. Also use of mobile phones by players are scrutinised regularly.





# leisure



'I DON'T

EGO OR

**CARRY MY** 

**MY PRIDE'** 

Mumbai: Global star Priyanka

Chopra, who is a quite big name in

the west now, decided to explore

Hollywood at the peak of her ca-

reer in the Hindi film industry

around 2011–2012. Recently, when she

visited India for the promotion of

her upcoming spy-thriller, Citadel,

she reflected on a few questions

She said, "People ask me all

the time, why haven't other

people broken into

Hollywood the way you

have? I don't have the an-

swer to that. All I know is

that the one thing that I

did which maybe led to

it, was that I didn't carry

my baggage. I come from

India, and I'm a big

star here, and I have

an entourage of 20 peo-

ple. I don't do that

there. I will give an

audition. I

have no

qualms

about walking

into the room and

showing people my work.

I'm not afraid of the work. I

don't carry my ego or my

She further added, "I've

been a leading lady for a

very long time, whether

that's in Hollywood or

in Bollywood. It takes

time to get there. It

took me about eight years work-Hollywood to

be able to do

leading parts.

she is often asked.

### **KYLIE SLAMMED FOR LYING ABOUT PLASTIC SURGERY**

Kylie Jenner has revealed in an interview that it is a common 'misconception' of the public that she has had a 'lot of plastic surgery'. The comment sparked a bunch of reactions on Twitter, where many called out the reality TV personality for her hypocrisy.

### **AARON CARTER DROWNED** AFTER CONSUMING XANAX

Pop star Aaron Carter drowned in his bathtub after consuming Xanax, his autopsy has confirmed. Carter died at his home in Lancaster, California, in November, aged 34, and his primary cause of death has now been listed as drowning by the Los Angeles Medical Examiner.



## FORTUNE **FORECAST** GaneshaSpeaks.co™

accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

If you are aiming to marry soon you can start making preparations today. However, before you take the final decision, it would be better to look at both sides of the coin, advises Ganesha. Activities related to such an alliance will dominate today, and by the end of the

day you may feel very elated.

#### **TAURUS**

This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with any one who seems unfriendly or ill mannered You will only end up in spoiling some healthy relationships. Your moods are likely change from moment to moment.

### GEMINI

It will not be hard for you to complete your tasks succesfully and without any delays or obsta cles in your path, only if you first seek to fully understand and acquire the learning required to eprform it. The fruits of your labour will keep you hanny and satisfied says Ganesha

#### CANCER

Dame Luck will patronise you today. You will gain from land, house or building trade. You will get total support and cooperation from bosses and colleagues in the office. Ganesha indicates it as a very profitable day for you.

You will be very emotional and sentimental today. Your ego prevents you from expressing your true feelings at times. You need to keep this in mind when beloved. It is a good day for romance, and for those seeking love, says Ganesha.

## **■ VIRGO**

Ganesha foretells that you will start off on a long, arduous path to success. Some tough work will play a vital role in your progress. Don't cut corners, and your labours will pay rich dividends and you will reap due rewards. Some opportu nities are best left alone as they involve too much risk

Lady Luck smiles on you today. With all the good for tune on your side, it's gains come your way, especially if you are in the banking business. Agreed everything is going your way today, but be careful not to let your emotions cloud your reasoning and slow you down. Don your rational hat and lower your expectations a little.

## SCORPIO

There are strong indications that today you will be receptive and sensitive towards the needs of other people. Negative vibes will disrupt your thinking and you will rely on the company of close friends to keep you in good cheer. Do not succumb to the pessimism that might cloud your thought today as it is only a passing phase, advises Ganesha.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesha sees quality time being spent with friends and family All in all, a fun day.

## CAPRICORN

Despite repeated failures very few realise that the key to success is in having the patience of a saint. Vexation invariably leads to an outburst which, in turn, can ruin your reputation and future prospects in innumerable ways. Today, Ganesha advises you to keep your calm and smile back even if faced with an adverse situation.

## **AQUARIUS**

Be sure of your strengths and decisions, and Ganesha guarantees you success You don't care what others think about you, but don't be so indifferent that you ignore their choices, preferences and comforts completely. The smile of you sweetheart will work like a charm and you will forget all your worries, feels Ganesha

## **PISCES**

Ganesha warns that your expenses could be twice as much as your income or pro it. You need to be more careful in money matters. It is not an auspicious day for any new work, new deal or any new beginnings.

## Irrfan's last movie to release April 28

Mumbai: The Song of Scorpions, which marks the late Irrfan Khan's final performance, will be released in theatres April 28. This film is a tribute to the actor who passed away

The film, set in Jaisalmer's Thar desert, features Iranian-French actress Golshifteh Farahani opposite Irrfan, with Waheeda Rehman, Shashank Arora and Tillotama Shome in strong supporting roles. The trailer for the film was unveiled Wednesday on digital platforms. The film is written and directed by Anup

Singh who

the critically acclaimed Qissa: The Tale of a Lonely Ghost with Irrfan earlier.

Irrfan essays the role of a camel trader in this twisted love story of revenge and the redemptive power of the song while Farahani plays Nooran, a fiercely independent tribal woman, who is learning the ancient healing art of scorpion singing from her grandmother, Zubeida, played by Waheeda Rehman.

Talking about the film, director Anup Singh said, "The film is about choice: you can either choose to breathe out the poison you breathe in. or sing a song of love that heals rather than harms. Irrfan believed in it passionately and I am glad that people will be able to see it soon."



## Mani Ratnam rejects the term 'Bollywood'

Mumbai: In the post-pandemic era, we can feel the undeclared competition between Bollywood (Hindi film industry from Mumbai) and other Hindi dubbed films from the South industries. While the true movie lovers enjoy content from all industries, some try to make it a tussle of egos. Recently, Ponnivin Selvan

raised an objection over the Hindi film industry calling itself Bollywood. While speaking at an entertainment summit, he expressed that the Hindi film industry should avoid using the term 'Bollywood' to describe itself as it is creating a problem in presenting the true identity of Indian cinema in front of the globe.

FUN

POST

Across

7 Show up

8 Film genre

9 Card game

10 Laboratory

11 Tombstone

item (4,4)

inscription

13 Eco-friendly,

15 Indonesian

island

nowadays

2's director Mani Ratnam

The Dil Se director said "If Hindi cinema can stop calling itself Bollywood, then people will stop identifying Indian cin-

ema as Bollywood.

Even director

Vetrimaaran agreed with it and said, "I'm not a fan of the 'woods' like Bollywood and Kollywood. We need to see it as Indian cinema on the

On multiple occasions, films from the South Indian industry were termed 'Bollywood' films. One such instance happened when SS Rajamouli had to make it clear to an American journalist that RRR is not a 'Bollywood'



## Navya speaks against street harassment

New Delhi: In recognition of International Anti-Harassment Week, philanthropist Navya Naveli Nanda has joined hands with L'Oreal Paris for its 'Stand Up Against Street Harassment' initiative. The granddaughter of Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has urged people to act by taking training about it on www.standup-india.com to learn how to safely intervene in instances of harassment.

Sharing her thoughts on the prominent social issue, she said, "This International Anti-Harassment Week, let's pledge to cre-

> selves to manage street harassment effectively. Unwelcome and unwanted comments and behaviours in public spaces are street harassment.' She further detailed the Stand Up pro-

> ate awareness and educate our-

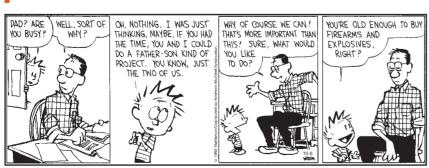
'Stand Up aims to not only heighten awareness about street harassment but simul taneously encourage bystanders to intervene, support victims and discourage harassers safely. I feel honoured to be a part of this empowering cause initiative with L'Oreal Paris, which will help me strengthen my pursuit of creating a more inclusive space

Navya has been a strong advocate of women's empowerment and has stood her ground for crucial social causes.

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



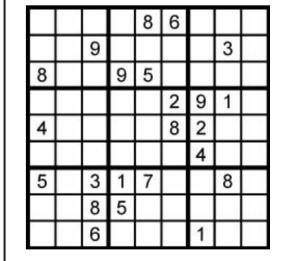
## BREVITY



## SUDOKU

**CROSSWORD** 

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



## SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR R O Y A L A U T O P S Y
P K S T C
B A S E B A L L G L E E

> 4 1 7 9 6 2 2 9 8 1 5 3 1 3 6 4 8 6 9 2 5 3 7 3 6 4 7 8 1 5 2 9 8 2 1 5 6 9 7 3 4

3 Bureaucratic

stuff (3,4)

strongbox

5 Public speaker

4 Pirate's

6 Mexican

chapeau

12 High status

14 Racehorse

place

16 Fish hawk

Slow down

22 Spinnaker, e.g.

18 Pinnacle

19

SUDOKU

## CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Copyright @2023 PuzzleJunction.com

17 Hearing range

21 Hot cereal

bad

Down

24 Emergency

1 Genuine

2 Shoat

situation

23 Run of luck,

Processed, like

either good or



# downtown



### **MUSIC SHOW**

Artistes perform at 'Geetare Geetare Prashant Padhi' organised by SS Media Creation at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

222	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	68,58,95,234	65,85,95,073	68,44,093
	India	4,48,45,401	4,42,50,649	5,31,190
	Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204
	111111111	: 	: 	: 

## Dawn-to-dusk bandh in 14 dists hits life

BJD says BJP wants to instigate violence for political gains which has always been its strategy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 19: Normal life in 14 districts of Odisha, including violence-hit Sambalpur, was affected Wednesday due to a 12hour 'hartal' (strike) called by Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP).

The dawn-to-dusk agitation has also been supported by the BJP, Bajrang Dal and other outfits of the Sangh Parivar.

Clashes were reported in Sambalpur April 12 and 14, following which curfew was imposed in the city and internet services were suspended in the district.

The prohibitory order clamped in Sambalpur city since the midnight of April 14 following largescale violence during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations was, however, partially lifted but the suspension of internet services was extended by another 24 hours till 10am Thursday, an official said.

The strike was spontaneous in Sambalpur, with commercial establishments remaining shut and

harmony in violence-hit Sambalpur

Student, youth and woman wings of Biju Janata Dal take out a candlelight rally

in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, seeking restoration of peace and communal



Birsa Munda Chhak in Sambalpur wears a deserted look due to the 12-hour bandh, Wednesday

a few vehicles plying the roads. In other districts, however, Hindutva activists were seen staging blockades on roads and urging people to shut their shops.

However, emergency services have been kept out of the purview of the hartal. Police personnel were deployed at important junctions in the affected districts to prevent any untoward incident.

Suspension of internet services in Sambalpur district has been extended by another 24 hours ASP, Sambalpur, Tapan Kumar Mohanty said there has been no report of any untoward incident in

> the district so far. Besides Sambalpur, the hartal was observed in Bargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Subarnapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts.

■ The strike was spontaneous in

Sambalpur, with commercial

vehicles plying the roads

important junctions in the

untoward incident

establishments, except emergency

services, remaining shut and a few

Police personnel were deployed at

affected districts to prevent any

Agitators demanded stringent action against "those responsible" for the violence in Sambalpur.

'We will observe a statewide strike if no action is taken against those guilty within 48 hours," Subhransu Sekhar Satpathy, VHP secretary, Odisha, said.

BJP state unit president Manmohan Samal alleged that the police acted in a partisan manner and allowed mischief-mongers to go scot-free and arrested some innocent people. Meanwhile, Sambalpur district administration relaxed curfew following improvement in situation. No fresh violence was reported since April 14.

"Curfew has been relaxed from 7am to 6pm as the situation has improved," Sambalpur Collector Ananya Das said. However, the state government extended the suspension of internet services by 24 hours till 10am Thursday across Sambalpur district.

The administration, however, provided internet services to banks and commercial establishments in some areas except Sambalpur city.

The Collector, along with Superintendent of Police B Gangadhar, held several peace committee meetings with representatives of localities and said normalcy is returning.

The BJD, on the other hand, accused the BJP of trying to "instigate violence" in Odisha.

BJD spokesperson Srimayee Mishra said party activists will bring out peace marches across the state Wednesday evening.

"It is extremely unfortunate that when peace is returning to Sambalpur, the Odisha BJP wants to instigate violence for political gains. This has always been their strategy. The police have taken tough action against those involved in the violence," she said in a statement.

Meanwhile, sources said the local administration has taken a decision to restore internet services in Kuchinda, Rairakhol, Naktideul, Jujumara, Bamra, and Jamankira regions.

## **ASPIRATIONAL DIST PROG Krishan Kumar Central** Prabhari for Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 19: Odisha cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and joint secretary to the Ministry of Commerce, Krishan Kumar has been appointed the Central Prabhari officer for tribal dominated Rayagada district as part of the Centre's aspirational district programme.

The Centre has recently issued a notification in this regard. He is expected to visit Rayagada district soon to review the implementation of Central schemes in the district.

Kumar was working as sub-collector in Gunupur from 2004 to 2006. Construction of a mini stadium and a blood bank in Gunupur was accomplished during his

# CM to flag off Odisha Skill Conclave today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 19: In a bid to transform Odisha into a global skill hub and create a brighter future for its people and beyond, the state government is going to organise Odisha Skill Conclave here from April 20 to 22, 2023.

The conclave is being organised by Skill Development and Technical Education department and Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as the industry partner.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate the conclave in the presence of Minister of State (Independent Charge), Skill Development & Technical Education

Pritiranjan Gharai, Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, FICCI president and MD of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys (IMFA) Ltd Subhrakant Panda, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena and others.

The overarching goal of the event will be to develop and enhance the state's human resource potential and create opportunities by offering high quality, reasonably priced and easily accessible technical & vocational education and skill development training to all societal groups.

The conclave will witness signing of MoUs, conferences, exhibitions, demonstrations and cultural activities. It will also offer a plethora of opportunities to the skilled workforce from the state.

## Med officer held for taking bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Jajpur, April 19: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday arrested the medical officer and a security guard of a community health centre (CHC) in Jajpur on charges of bribery

Jajpur's Danagadi CHC medical officer Pabitra Kumar Sethi was arrested while taking ₹20,000 from a man for providing the latter the post-mortem report of his son who died due to lightning March 31, the anti-corruption wing sleuths said.

Abhiram Kandi, a security guard at the state-run health facility, has also been taken into custody as the medical officer received the bribe

amount through him, they said. As per the state government scheme, an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh



is awarded to the next of kin of those who die due to lightning strikes. The complainant required a copy of the post-mortem report to submit with the application.

Sethi intentionally delayed the process and later demanded ₹20,000 to issue the report. "With no way out, the complainant approached the Vigilance. Accordingly, a trap was laid and

the doctor was nabbed taking the bribe money through the security guard. The money was recovered from Sethi," an official release said.

While a case has been registered

against Sethi under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 1988, simulta neous searches were on multiple locations related to him to unearth his alleged disproportionate assets. Meanwhile, a head clerk in Puri

was also arrested for receiving ₹5,000 bribe. Vigilance sources said Raghunath Bisoi, the head clerk at District Sub-Registrar Office in Puri was arrested while accepting ₹5.000 as bribe from a man to facilitate him a power of at-

The anti-corruption wing has registered a case (10/2023).

1% of Indians take home 22% of the country's income.

1% of Indians account for 45% of all flights.

3% of Indians make up all unique credit card holders.

2.6% of Indians invest in mutual funds.

8% of Indian households constitute 100% car ownership.

6.5% of Indian users account for about 44% of UPI transactions.

5% of Indian users account for about 33% of orders placed on Zomato.

7.4% of urban Indians read an English newspaper.

Do the math. Thank You.



All data presented sourced from The Indus Valley Report, 2023 by Blume Ventures (bit.ly/indusvalley2023). TotalReadership data is based on IRS Q4, 2019.

THURSDAY | APRIL 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar, April 19: Giving

new hope to the differently abled

people of the state, Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik Wednesday inau-

gurated a new center of famous

Jaipur Foot - Biju Mahaveer Jaipur

Stating that the disabled are an

important part of the society, the

Chief Minister said that their

proper rehabilitation is the re-

sponsibility of all of us. He ad-

vised everyone to work together

The state government is doing

a lot for their welfare and to provide

them better services. The Chief

Minister said that steps are being

taken to empower them through

training along with their rehabil-

itation. He requested everyone's

cooperation to help the disabled.

Minister praised the founder of

Jaipur Foot Center, Mehta, and

said that he has become a blessing

to lakhs of people with disabili-

ties today. His commitment to so-

ciety is an inspiration to all. The

Chief Minister said that the state

government will provide all support

the Jaipur Foot is a unique prod-

uct made with indigenous know-

how, which can fully enable the

Jaipur Foot Center was estab-

lished in 1975 by founder Padma

The Chief Minister said that

for this campaign in Odisha.

On this occasion, the Chief

Foot Centre'in Khurda.

**SEWAGE TANK DEATHS** 

# **NHRC** issues notice to Chief Secretary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 19: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Wednesday issued a show-cause notice against Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena over the death of two workers in a sewage tank in

The commission has issued the notice to the Chief Secretary while hearing a petition filed by rights activist Akhand. As per the complaint, two workers engaged in cleaning of the sewage tank in Cuttack died of asphyxiation in April 2021.

In its report to the NHRC, the

**Continued from P1** 

**Survey of Mahanadi** 

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh Chief

Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that

the matter should not have gone to

the tribunal. He asserted that the

state has failed complete the con-

struction of barrages on the

Mahanadi due to the ongoing dis-

Chhattisgarh and there is no dam

here in the state; the controversy

is over the seven barrages. As the

matter went to the tribunal, we

have stopped our high dam and

barrage constructions. We think

that we should get permission for

the same as the entire water is

going to Odisha," said the

Union Minister of State for Jal

Shakti Ministry Bishweswar Tudu

said that the Centre's permission

is not needed for construction of

small barrages, as built by

Chhattisgarh. He said that the

Odisha government could have constructed small barrages on

Mahanadi, if they had wanted to.

Now as the election is round the cor-

ner, the state government is only

Temperatures over...

They are Nuapada (44.4 degrees), Bolangir (44), Boudh (43.9), Talcher

(43.8), Angul (43.7) and Jharsuguda (43.6), Rourkela (43.3), Sambalpur (43.2), Titlagarh (43.1) and Sundargarh (43). Many other places

including Sonepur (42.5),

Bhubaneswar (42.5) and Cuttack

(42.2) registered temperatures of

The IMD said there will be no

major change in the day tempera-

tures for the next couple of days.

In most places temperatures will

be 2-3 degrees Celsius above normal.

It added that even though rainfall

may bring temporary relief, the

heatwave will return again to tor-

IMD officials also informed that

people while going out will have to

take proper protective measures

to tackle the heatwave. All district

collectors and other officials have

been asked to monitor the situation

on a regular basis. The present

heatwave is expected to continue

for another 3-4 days after which

rainfall will reduce temperatures

in certain districts of Odisha.

ment the people of the state.

more than 40 degree Celsius.

doing drama, the minister said.

Chhattisgarh CM.

"Mahanadi originates in

begins

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack police commissioner said P Shankar and Bishnu Naik lost their lives while one D Shiva was under treatment. No prescribed protection was taken in cleaning an underground sewer network in CDA Sector-10 area April 15, 2021.

'During the departmental inquiry, it came to the light that Pradyut Kumar Sahu, junior engineer; Public Health and Engineering department (PHED) and Deepak Kumar Naik, director are responsible for this unfortunate incident,' the commission said.

The NHRC further said the probe

that JE Pradyut Kumar Sahu and Deepak Kumar Naik, contractor are responsible for this unfortunate incident which reflects that the incident took place due to the negligence on the part of the government employees for which the state is vicariously liable as the human rights of the two deceased

persons and one person undergoing rights panel treatment have recommended for a been violated.

It has asked compensation of ₹10 Chief lakh to the next of Secretary as to why a compenkin of the sation of Rs 10 lakh should not be recommended to be

paid to the next of kin of the deceased and to specify whether any compensation has been paid to the injured person for the negligence on the part of the government employees and nature of injury sustained by the injured.

The Chief Secretary was directed to reply to the show-cause notice within four weeks.

## CUO to showcase traditional games

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 19: In a bid to promote country's traditional games, the Central University of Odisha (CUO) is going to conduct the Bharativa Paramparik Kreeda Mahotsava in collaboration with Kreeda Bharati April 21-22.

The institution will organise such an event for the first time. In the two-day programme, various traditional games of India will be showcased. The purpose of this event is twofold: to create awareness about the traditional games of India, which are losing popularity in the modern days, and to rescue them from oblivion. The Union Minister of State for Education. Subhas Sarkar, will inaugurate the event. Chakradhar Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of the University, will preside over the programme.

India's rich culture and history have always been deeply rooted in sports and games. Unfortunately, traditional games like Kho Kho. Pallanguzi, Lippa, Kabaddi, and Gilli Danda have been forgotten by today's youth since they are so absorbed in playing video games. Therefore, bringing back old games will have many beneficial effects on the health of young population, said an official.

In the two-day programme, eight groups of sportspersons will arrive at the university to demon-





strate the traditional games. Out of them, five are from different parts of Odisha, two are from West Bengal and one group is from Assam. The proposed sports and games are Sports Yoga, Archery Demonstration, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Malkhamb and Rope Malkhamb (all from Odisha), Gatka, Kalarippayattu, Thang-Ta (Assam), Atya Patya (Demo), Gilli Danda (Demo) and Surya Namaskar (Demo). Apart from these events, the groups will also perform folk dances such as Chhau Nrutya (Odisha), Raibenshe Dance (West Bengal), Paika Yudhha Kaushal (Odisha), Bharatiya Yuddha Kaushal (West Bengal), Yogasana and Surya Namaskar (Odisha).



CULTURAL SHOW: Students performing during the Annual Prize Giving Ceremony of BJEM School in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Chief Minister launched a foot centre in Khurda, Wednesday

Bhushan DR Mehta in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Its name is Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS). The Chief Minister also launched a mobile vehicle to provide artificial limbs to the disabled.

The Minister for the Empowerment of the Disabled Ashok Panda said, "Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the Department of the Empowerment of the Disabled has been successfully implementing various programs.

DR Mehta, founder of Jaipur Foot Center, in his welcome speech said that providing artificial limbs to the disabled is their social commitment. This organization, which has been operating for more than 50 years, continues its continuous efforts to enable people with disabilities in many countries of the world today, he added. Chief Minister also inaugurated

a model women's vending zone at Dumuduma Wednesday.

There are 42 shops in this vending zone. The environment of this zone has been given a sophisticated look which includes good lighting, provision of drinking water and toilet facilities.

The inauguration ceremony was organised by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Housing & Urban Development Minister Usha Devi, Science & Technology Minister Ashok Panda, Mayor Sulochana Das and corporators were present in the opening



CM inaugurated a model women's vending zone at Dumduma in City

## KIIT holds webinar on 'Future of Work'

POST NEWS NETWORK

differently-abled.

Bhubaneswar, April 19: A panel of experts participated at KIIT-DU organised seminar on "Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills" to discuss how to make the tech-enabled society more inclusive and qualitative for everyone. The seminar was organized under the Jan Bhagidari initiative that

comes under the G20 framework. Damodar Sahu, who is the Head of Ecosystems & Partnerships, Growth Partners at Wipro spoke at the seminar along with Manaswini Rath. Senior Vice President of Global Head Automotive Driving at KPIT Bangalore, Manish Kalbande, India Head of Senior Blue at

Johnson Control Pune, Munir Sayyad, Assistant Vice President at Reliance Jio Mumbai, and Abhishek Dhar, who graduated from KIIT in 2018 and joined the corporate sec-

tor, was the fourth speaker. Overall, the seminar provided valuable insights into the future of work, with an emphasis on the importance of innovation, 21st-century

skills, and AI technology. The session provided insights into the challenges and opportunities that the future of work presents, including the importance of developing 21st-century skills and preparing for Industry 4.0. It highlighted the need for continuous learning and upskilling to stay relevant and succeed in the everevolving technological landscape.

## Telescopes on the Moon could transform astronomy

unar exploration is undergoing a renaissance. Dozens of missions, organised by multiple space agencies - and increasingly by commercial companies – are set to visit the Moon by the end of this decade.

Most of these will involve small robotic spacecraft, but NASA's ambitious Artemis programme, aims to return humans to the lunar surface by the middle of the decade.

There are various reasons for all this activity, including geopolitical posturing and the search for lunar resources, such as waterice at the lunar poles, which can be extracted and turned into hydrogen and oxygen propellant for rockets.

The Moon still has much to tell us about the origin and evolution of the solar system. It also has scientific value as a platform for observational astronomy.

The potential role for astronomy of Earth's natural satellite was discussed at a Royal Society meeting earlier this year. Far side benefits

Several types of astronomy would benefit. The most obvious is radio astronomy, which can be conducted from the side of the Moon that always faces away from

Earth-the far side The lunar far side is permanently shielded from the radio signals generated by humans on Earth. During the lunar night, it is also protected from the Sun.

These characteristics make it probably the most "radio-quiet" location in the whole solar system as no other planet or moon has a side that permanently faces away from the Earth. It is therefore ideally suited for radio astronomy.

Radio waves are a form of elec-

tromagnetic energy – as are, for example, infrared, ultraviolet and visible-light waves. They are defined by having different wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum. Radio waves with wavelengths longer than about 15m are blocked by Earth's ionoshere

But radio waves at these wavelengths reach the Moon's surface unimpeded. For astronomy, this is the last unexplored region of the electromagnetic spectrum, and it is best studied from the lunar far side.

Observations of the cosmos at these wavelengths come under the umbrella of "low frequency radio astronomy". These wavelengths are uniquely able to probe the structure of the early universe, especially the cosmic "dark ages" – an era before the first galaxies formed.

Signals from other stars Another potential application of far side radio astronomy is try-

ing to detect radio waves from charged particles trapped by magnetic fields - magnetospheres - of planets orbiting other stars.

This would help to assess how capable these exoplanets are of hosting life. Radio waves from exoplanet magnetospheres would probably have wavelengths greater than 100m, so they would require a radioquiet environment in space.

Crater depths

The Moon also offers opportunities for other types of astronomy as well. Astronomers have lots of experience with optical and infrared telescopes operating in free space, such as the Hubble telescope and JWST. However, the stability of the lunar surface may confer advantages for these types of instrument.

The cold, stable environment of permanently shadowed craters may also have advantages for the next generation of instruments to detect gravitational waves – "ripples" in space-time caused by processes such as exploding stars and colliding black holes.

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CLEANLINESS IS GODLINESS: NCC cadets of Rambha Girls' High School in Ganjam district cleaning plastic and other waste dumped by tourists from Rambha ietty in Chilika lake as part of Punit Sagar Abhiyan, Wednesday

## MAJOR RAID ON SMUGGLERS' DEN

9 ARRESTED, 12 CARS SEIZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh/Sohela, April 19: In a major breakthrough, a special squad of police has arrested 9 people who were allegedly involved in smuggling activities, from a hideout at the backyard of Rajasthani Dhaba in Luhurachati under Sohela Police Station in the district. The raid took place late Tuesday night and the police seized an amount of ₹2,54,440 in cash, 12 costly cars, and other equipment used in smuggling.

of Chhattisgarh's

As per the sources, the accused have been identified as Karim Khan from Baramkela, Bhupesh Kumar from Jalgarh, Yashpal Singh from Pithora, Mirza Ahmed from Chandmari, Prakash Kumar from Krishna Nagar, Kuljeet Singh from Bagar, Deepak Agarwal from Sariya Sonarpara in Chhattisgarh, Ahmed Ali from Nuapada's Khariar road, and Dhalendra Sahu from Dumerpani. Apart from cash and



vehicles, the police have also recovered three packs of playing cards, foreign liquor, and nine mobile phones from their possession.

The accused have been produced before the court Wednesday. According to the police, they had been keeping a close watch on the smuggling activities happening in the nearby area, and they will continue their vigilance in the future

Padampur Sub-Divisional Police Officer Bibhuti Bhusan Bhoi said, "We are glad to have made this breakthrough in our fight against smuggling. Our police department will continue to be vigilant and take strict action against anyone involved in any illegal activity."

## 6-month jail to woman in cheque 🗦 bounce case

Bhadrak: A local court sentenced a

woman to six months of imprisonment after convicting her in a cheque bounce case of ₹65 lakh under Negotiable Instruments Act, Wednesday. The convicted woman was identified as Nirupama Panda, a native of Arsa village under Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district. The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Chinmaya Kumar Padhi also directed her to pay a compensation of ₹90 lakh to the victim in the case. In default to pay the compensation within the specified time period, the convicted woman has to undergo additional one month of imprisonment, the SDJM ordered. According to the case diary, Panda got in contact with anothe woman Annapurna Sahu of Apartibindha area in Bhadrak to sell a land belonging to her in Pandra mouza in Bhubaneswar. June 23, 2018. As per the agreement, Panda received ₹65,000 from Sahu in installments. Later, Panda sold off the land to another person without informing her. Sahu was left crest fallen when she came to know about the development and demanded payback. Later, Panda gave her a cheque of ₹65,000 of Andhra Bank drawn in her favour, December 30, 2018. However, the cheque bounced when Sahu deposited it in her bank to withdraw the money. Left with no option, Sahu filed a petition in

the court of SDJM in Bhadrak

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF

**DOCUMENTS** 

Notice is hereby given on behal of my client PNB HOUSING FI NANCE LTD. Bhubaneswar fo

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What-so-ever on the property after 15 days. Address for Communication Branch, PNB HOUSING FI

the prior original record of the control of the con

## Pvt schools mushroom in Jajpur **GUIDELINES THROWN TO THE WINDS**

In a 1st, IoT device to check tax evasion in Joda mines



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, April 19: The state government has introduced modern technology to check large-scale tax evasion in iron ore mines and irregularities in iron ore types under Joda mining circle in Keonjhar district, a report said Wednesday. The state government has ap-

plied this new technology for the first time ever, sources from the Mining department said. As part of this move, an IoT

(Internet of Things) device has been installed at the office of the deputy director of mines in Joda, February 13.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of physical objects— "things"—that are embedded with sensors, softwares, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet.

This new device using advanced technology will help check manipulation and fraud in determination of mineral types and bids by some unscrupulous traders to obtain clearance for transportation by citing the iron ore as of

very low quality.

Sources said that GPS technology will apply random generation sampling location method to collect mineral samples from mines which will be checked later in an IoT device to determine its quality and grade. This method will keep the name of the mines a secret and the quality of minerals can be known by using a QR code.

No irregularity can be carried out or unfair method can be used in the process to conceal the mineral quality. Earlier, some unscrupulous leaseholders used to conceal the iron ore grades to avoid paying tax. In a bid to check such unfair practices, the state Mining department has launched the use of the IoT device as a pilot project in mines under Joda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Korei, April 19: Private schools have illegally mushroomed in various parts of this block in Jajpur district in violation of government guidelines sans proper infrastructure, a report said Wednesday.

Such schools are only increasing in number day by day due to lack of any action on part of the district and block administration. This has only emboldened the authorities of these schools to operate their institution with impunity.

It is alleged that most of these schools do not have proper infrastructure but have managed to operate by greasing the palms of some unscrupulous officials of Education department.

Allegations are rife that the officials never visit these schools to make a proper inspection of available infrastructure but handover a certificate of recognition (CoR) to the authorities in exchange for bribe. Moreover, there are schools operating without a CoR or proper infrastructure but no action is being taken against them.

Earlier, the joint director of Education department had issued show-cause notice to the schools which were lacking CoR and directed the district education officers to take action against them. However, the order has been confined to only pen and paper and

were calling the shots.

The excitement of the Odia fan

base of the Telugu actor reached



still remains to be implemented.

According to reports, there are over 40 such schools functioning in Korei block. Most of these schools are functioning without having the minimum facilities of drinking water, playground, toilets and necessary classrooms.

Moreover, most of the teachers do not have the requisite qualification and training. As a result, the bonhomie between the school authorities and some officials of Education department is doing more harm than good to the students and pushing their future into

What is more surprising is that some of these schools are illegally functioning on government land while the authorities have managed to get a CoR by submitting records of private land held by them or their kin.

This has happened as the block education officer and officials of the district education office never visit the area where the school is functioning to verify the available infrastructure or the land records submitted by the school authorities.

Residents of Andhari panchayat under the block have lodged several complaints against many schools operating on government land. However, their pleas are yet to be addressed.

Locals have alleged that a particular school is running for past several years without having necAccording to reports, there are over 40 such schools functioning in Korei block alone. Most of these schools are functioning sans minimum facilities of drinking water, playground, toilets and necessary classrooms

essary CoR and infrastructure. Moreover, it has appointed some inexperienced teachers to teach the students and charging hefty sum from the guardians towards admission and school fees. The villagers have lodged several

complaints against this particular school's owner but without any success as he is hand in gloves with the officials of Education department. They have demanded a proper inquiry into their allegation and action against the culprits. While the private schools are

mushrooming in this block, the government schools having trained teachers are struggling for survival.

When contacted, additional BEO Ashok Ray said that action will be taken after receiving an order from the authorities of Education department.

NANCE LTD. Bhubaneswar.
Sanjay Das, Advocate
Mob: 9437014499 Notice Under Order 5 rule 20 of C.P.C IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE AT CUTTACK

I.A.NO 1/2022

(Arising out of R.F.A No. 485 of 2022) Indranil Mitra and others

... Petitioners

- Versus -

Meera Pal and others

... Opp. Petitioners

Birendra Kumar Mitra. 2) Subrata Ghose, D/o. Late

Birendra Kumar Mitra.

All are of Tinikonia Bagicha P.O.-Buxi Bazar, CUTTIP Darghabazar, Dist.- Cuttack. WHEREAS, that the above named petitioner application to this court U/0-39 Rule-1 & 2 read with Section

151 of C.P.C for temporary

injunction. You are hereby noticed to appear in this Court in person or by 10.05.2023 a Pleader on 10.05.2023 to show cause against the application, failing wherein the said application will be heard and determined exparty. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on 12th day of April 2023.

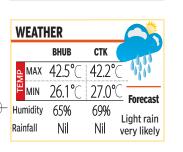
DISTRICT JUDGE, CUTTACK

## Elderly falls from mango tree, dies

Rupsa: An elderly man died after he fell down accidentally on the ground while plucking mangoes from a tree at Mulida village under Basta police limits in Balasore district, Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Mrutyunjaya Maiti, 70, of the village. Family members rushed him to Basta community health centre in critical condition where he succumbed during treatment. The incident occurred when Maiti went to his backyard in the morning and climbed a mangoes tree to pluck the fruits. He was preoccupied in plucking mangoes when he slipped his legs and suffered a fatal fall. A pall of gloom descended in the area after news



#### **MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION** SENSEX **59567.80** 🖊 159.21 **17618.75** 41.40 NIFTY **1** ₹0.13 DOLLAR **81.97 1** ₹0.24 EURO ₹258 ₹60,230 GOLD SILVER **₹75,499**



## Allu Arjun in Malkangiri for Pushpa-II shoot



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, April 19: Telugu film star Allu Arjun was spotted in Malkangiri district for the shooting of his upcoming movie 'Pushpa-II', sources said Wednesday.

Pictures of him wearing black shorts have also surfaced on the internet. According to sources, the film will be shot at various locations of Swabhiman Anchal and in Saptadhara of Malkangiri district.

This approximately 900 square km region, Swabhiman Anchal, was once a no-go zone for civil and police administration as left wing extremists under the Andhra-Odisha Border zone of the CPI (Maoist) 'Pushpa-II' movie. It can be mentioned here that

'Pushpa-II' isn't the first movie of the Telugu star to be shot in Odisha. Earlier, his movie 'Arya' was also shot in Odisha's Rayagada.

the movie will also be shot in

Malkangiri district. Fans from all

over India are eagerly waiting for the

Notably, apart from Allu Arjun, the movie will also feature Rashmika Mandanna in a pivotal role.

It can be mentioned here that, the production house Mythri Movie Makers after selecting locations had previously written to Malkangiri Collector Vishal Singh and Superintendent of Police (SP) Nitesh Wadhwani seeking their permission



enguda under Gunupur Tahasil of Rayagada Dist Odisha has accorded necessary Environment Clearance from SEIAA, Odisha vide EC Identification No EC22B001OR167442 Dated 17.08.2022 and copies of the EC are available with SEIAA, Odisha and on the websites of Odisha State Pollution Control Board

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT**

e-mail- eerwss kpt@rediffmail.com Ph.No.06852-250281(Off.), Ph.No. 06852- 250680(Res.), Fax No.: 06852-251098

National Competitive Bidding Through E-Procurement Tender Idintification No. 01/EE/ RWSS/ KPT/2023-24 /15.04.2023 No.O-61:- The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput on beha of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover (P1 contract) from the eligible class of experienced registere contractors through e-Tendering system for the piped water supply works as detailed in DTCN. The bid should be submitted online in the

1	Nature of work	Rural piped water supply projects under Koraput District		
2	Estimated cost	Varies from 17.08 lakhs to 48.90 lakhs		
3	Total Nos. of works	2 Nos.		
4	Tender cost	Rs.6,000.00		
5	Class of contractor	'D', 'C' & 'B'		
6	Availability of bid document in the website	Dt.29.04.2023 at 17.00 hours to 08.05.2023 upto 17.00 hours		
7	Date of seeking clarification	During the office hours of 29.04.2023 to 06.05.2023		
8	Date of opening of bid	Dt.10.05.2023 at 11.00 hours		

corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the website. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any

Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput

Dist- Bolangir 767002.

## **Emergency mock drill at PPL**



successfully conducted a mock drill on ammonia leakage scenario from ammonia supply line, Wednesday. On the direction of Asst. Director (Factories & Boilers) CK Dalai, the exercise was conducted at the plant site. Safety and fire officials from Kujang Fire Station, NDRF, Paradip Port, Coast Guard Trust, Dock Safety, IFFCO, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, Essar Power, Arcelor Mittal Steel, Adani Wilmar attended the drill as observors.

Dalai congratulated the PPL management for showing extraordinary team work during such emergency rescue operation. The PPL team led by Chief Manufacturing Officer & Unit Head Pranab Bhattacharyya displayed a brilliant procedure to be followed in the wake of an ammonia leakage scenario. Local sarpanches and various NGO representatives also appreciated PPL's effort in conducting such an exercise to spread the safety message for the people residing nearby villages. Jt. General Manager (Fire & Safety) Nihar Kanti Rout conducted the movement. All the senior officials of PPL and neighborhood industries were present and monitored various developments during the drill.

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, LOWER SUKTEL R.R.C&B DIVISION, BOLANGIR e-mail id- Isrrcbdbgr@gmail.com 'e' procurement Notice Bid identification NO.-LSRRC&BD-BGR-02/2023-24

No.A-46:The Superintending Engineer, Lower Suktel RRC&B Division Bolangir on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender to be received in online mode only for the work as detailed below. Period of Date & Time of Last date/time Cost Completion availability of bid for receipt Officer Inviting Bid of bid in the portal 29.04.2023 Construction of Toilets, Bath-ing Facilities alongwith provi-2235186.00/ 1 (One) 20.04.2023 Superintending Engineer, Lower Suktel R.R.C & B at 10.00 AM upto 5.30 PN sion of Bore Wells in RR Co Division, Bolangir ony of LSIP at Jhankarpa At-Laltikra, P.O-R-College Hardatal and at Dhulusar. Dist- Bolangir 767002. Construction of Toilets, Bath-ing Facilities alongwith provi-463962.00/ 1 (One) 20.04.2023 29.04.2023 uperintending Enginee Lower Suktel R.R.C at 10.00 AM upto 5.30 PN sion of Bore Wells in RR Col & B Division, Bolangir ony of LSIP at Kusmel North At-Laltikra, P.O-R.College,

Kusmel South and at Bagdia Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the Govt. website only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal-www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, LOWER SUKTEL R.R.C&B DIVISION, BOLANGIF

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2023-T-159 Name of Work: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF 12 M WIDE FOOT OVER BRIDGE EXTENSION/RAISING OF PLATFORMS MPROVEMENT TO PLATFORMS AND ADDITIONAL PLATFORM SHELTERS AT VARIOUS STATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME OF AMRUT BHARAT STATIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost of work: ₹1,55,78,850.63 EMD: ₹2,27,900/-, Completion period of Work 6 (Six) months from the date of issue of LOA.

12.05.2023. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax o in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summaril

without any consideration Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-Tenders is available in vebsite http://www.ireps.gov.in

he tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be ered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate or e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on -tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to evisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any Changes m issued for this tende

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G R-63/O/23-24



The cup has to be left clean and empty for the divine liquor to be poured into it.



Tasso Azevedo &

One increasingly

value on keeping

trees in the ground

popular approach is

to place a monetary

Ilona Szabó

## **Invest in Forests**

ven before taking office in January 2023, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio ≺ Lula de Silva promised to end illegal deforestation in the Amazon. He ✓also revived partnerships to amplify financing of forest protection and announced a presidential summit of Amazon Basin countries to be held in Belem in August. Lula is determined to accelerate global cooperation to protect the world's largest tropical forest, including by leveraging the newly capitalised Amazon Fund which is supported by Norway and Germany. President Lula and his Environment Minister, Marina da Silva, have made the protection and preservation of the Amazon a priority.

They have a point. The value of intact forests, especially the vast tropical biomes in the Amazon, Congo, and Indonesia, is immense. And without them, there is no hope of keeping global warming below 1.5 degree Celsius. To protect them (and, by extension, the Earth), we believe a new incentive mechanism that provides direct compensation for forest conser-

Most climate scientists agree that the only way to reverse global warming is by phasing out the use of fossil fuels and ensuring that more greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere than are emitted. Reducing emissions is simply not enough.

The key is to protect forests, which cover 31 per cent of the Earth's land surface (around four billion hectares) and are a net carbon sink, absorbing an estimated seven billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year even after

discounting all emissions from deforestation and other land-use change. Tropical forests, in particular, have a global cooling effect of 1 degree C when both carbon-locking and biophysical effects are considered

One solution for safeguarding our forests involves planting trees to compensate for those that have been felled. Several bold initiatives, including the Trillion Trees initiative and platform and the so-called Great Green Wall stretching across the width of Sub-Saharan Africa, are focused on restoration efforts.

But equally important is the conservation of old-growth tropical forests, which can serve as an important carbon sink when they are well preserved. Conversely, unprotected forests can start degrading and become a source of net emissions, as is occurring in parts of the Amazon Basin.

One increasingly popular approach is to place a monetary value on keeping trees in the

ground. While investment in carbon credits, biodiversity credits, and similar instruments is expanding, these market-based approaches are still not deployable at the speed and scale required to slow the degradation of the world's major tropical forests.

All of these strategies - from planting trees to carbon offsets - are necessary to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. But reducing emissions, reversing global warming, and regenerating natural systems requires a bolder and more comprehensive plan that guarantees, at a minimum, halting deforestation by 2030 and adding a billion hectares in forest cover by 2050.

The question is how to accomplish such ambitious objectives. We believe that a global incentive mechanism - in short, paying individuals, entities, or even states to preserve forests – is the best way forward.

To have an impact at scale, this innovative source of financing should encourage accelerated investment by ensuring that conservation yields tangible returns. The incalculable value of forests needs to be acknowledged, and investment on a truly unprecedented scale must be mobilised immediately.

The basic premise is to create a system that pays annually per hectare of forest preserved. To fast-track implementation, the mechanism's design must be simple and intuitive. For example, an individual, community, company, or government entity could register a private lot or publicly owned land in an accessible registry, after which land tenure and forest integrity can be verified. Payment would be made if a registered hectare of forest is still intact the following year – a relatively easy outcome to monitor using remote sensing. Penalties should be steep: for every registered hectare that is deforested, the beneficiary would lose the equivalent of payment for 100 hectares, for example, or even the total registered area.

Obviously, funding a project along these lines requires global buy-in and coordination. One idea is to implement a type of carbon tax – a fee on every barrel of oil, ton of coal, or cubic meter of gas produced on the planet.

Despite the difficulty of executing such a scheme, we can't afford to throw up our hands. Every day, the trees in the Amazon rainforest release 20 billion tons of water vapor into the atmosphere. To put this in perspective, the amount of electricity required to turn the same amount of water into steam would, according to one estimate, equal to the output of 50,000 power plants, or roughly a trillion dollars a day.

We must not view tackling deforestation as a long-term goal, as though we could afford to emit now and capture later. Climate change won't wait. If we get the incentives right and act quickly, we can preserve more than 1.8 billion hectares of existing tropical forest while also accelerating the regeneration of an additional one billion hectares. Preserving our existing forests is the right choice, because it is the only way to safeguard our collective future.

> Tasso Azevedo is General Coordinator of MapBiomas. Ilona Szabó is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

## WISDOM CORNER

Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall

Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.

In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit.

## WORDS**WORTH**

## Head over heels

hat's pretty much a set phrase these days, so that to be head over heels almost always means that one has fallen madly in love in an impetuous and unconstrained way. But by itself it can also refer to one's state while turning a somersault or cartwheel. It's more than a little weird when you think about it - what's so strange about having one's head over one's heels? After all, we do spend most of our waking lives in that position. It looks so odd because during its history it got turned upside down, just like the idea it represents. When it first appeared, back in the fourteenth century, it was written as heels over head, which makes a lot more sense. Logically, it meant to be upside down, or, as to turn heels over head, to turn a somersault. It became inverted around the end of the eighteenth century, it seems as the result of a series of mistakes by authors who didn't stop to think about the conventional phrase they were writing. The two forms lived alongside each other for most of the next century - the famous Davy Crockett was an early user of the modern form in 1834: "I soon found myself head over heels in love with this girl", but as late as the beginning of the twentieth century L Frank Baum consistently used the older form in his Oz books: "But suddenly he came flying from the nearest mountain and tumbled heels over head beside them".

## FOCUS ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## **CRUCIAL KARNATAKA**



Anita Saluja

THE BJP IS **FACING AN UPHILL TASK. THERE IS ANTI-**INCUMBENCY. THE PARTY IS **ALSO FACING CORRUPTION CHARGES WITH** THE TAG OF '40 **PER CENT COMMISSION** SARKAR'

inning the Karnataka Assembly elections, slated for May 10, is crucial as much for the Opposition Congress, as it is for the BJP, which is in power both in the state and at the Centre. The results on May 13 could signal the likely trend in the General Elections in 2024, when the two national parties, the Congress and the BJP which are in contention in Karnataka, will clash for power at the Centre

The Karnataka Assembly elections have wider political ramifications as this is the first contest between the BJP and the Congress after Rahul Gandhi's successful completion of his Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, besides the sympathy factor, following his recent disqualification from the Parliament and eviction from his 12, Tughlak Lane official bungalow in the National Capital. This has led to an image makeover for Rahul Gandhi. If it manages to win Karnataka elections, the Congress would be in a position to build upon the momentum created by these events.

The Congress needs to win Karnataka if it has to convincingly push ahead with its efforts to bring about Opposition unity An electoral win in a major state like Karnataka could boost the Congress morale as it attempts to unite the Opposition in order to take on the seemingly invincible BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Significantly, the Congress lost governments to the BJP in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, besides Maharashtra, where it was part of the state-level Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi coalition. Similarly, the Congress lost to the Aam Admi Party (AAP) in Punjab. After such a string of setbacks, the electoral success in Himachal Pradesh is a small consolation for the Congress, which needs to win a bigger state if it has to remain in the reckoning in the General Elections in 2024. It is only a convincing electoral victory in Karnataka that could bring back hope in the dispirited and desolate ranks of the party.



The Karnataka Assembly elections have wider political ramifications as this is the first contest between the BJP and the Congress after Rahul Gandhi's successful completion of his Bharat Jodo Yatra

The Congress is struggling hard to put up a united face. But, the Chief Ministerial ambitions of Karnataka PCC President DK Shiva Kumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could cast a shadow on the party's poll prospects.

The BJP too is desperately trying hard to retain power in Karnataka, which is the only state. south of the Vindhyas, where the saffron party has a strong base. The BJP described Karnataka as the Gateway to South India, hoping to expand its base in other southern states. If Karnataka slips out of its control, then it could be a jolt to the saffron party. It could upset its own strategy to win new states in the south, especially in Telangana, where the Assembly elections are due later this year. The BJP is working hard to reassert its 'double-engine government' theory. This is the formula of the BJP to expand its footprint across the states. As such, winning Karnataka is equally important for the BJP. The saffron party lost in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. It needs to retain power in Karnataka if it has to retain its political advantage. With the Opposition still in disarray, the BJP is far ahead in its preparations for the General Elections in 2024. But, it needs an emphatic electoral victory in Karnataka to stay

ahead of the Opposition.

However, all is not well in the saffron party in Karnataka. The BJP is facing an uphill task. There is antiincumbency. The party is also facing corruption charges with the tag of '40 per cent Commission Sarkar'. The ticket-distribution too was not a smooth affair. As a result, the simmering discontent has spiralled out of control, turning into open revolt with former Chief Minister Jagdish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi severing their ties with the

BJP and joining the Congress. Ever since BS Yediyurappa was replaced as Chief Minister by Basavarai Bommai there has been deep resentment in the party. Yediyurappa is easily the tallest Lingayat leader in Karnataka. Following Yediyurappa being replaced by Basavaraj Bommai, the BJP position has been considerably weakened in the state. The party is finding it difficult to put up a spirited fight in order to ward off the challenge being posed by the Congress. Though lackluster, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai saw advantage in taking a hardline on Hindutva agenda. This came as a huge surprise to political observers given Bommai's own socialist background. Perhaps, seeing the party battling the anti-incumbency and with a slew of corruption charges

hitting the party in the face, the Chief Minister seems to have seized upon the plank of Hindutva sensing that it not only can unite but galvanize the party cadre in the crucial election time. Under the Bommai dispensation, there have been high-pitched Hindutva-based campaigns. This led to a surge in anti-Christian attacks with the Bommai government finally passing the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2022, which in popular parlance is known as the Anti-Conversion Bill. The hijab controversy grabbed international headlines. Raising the Hindutva heat saw the polarising debate on Tipu Sultan versus Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar, the push for economic boycott of Muslim traders during temple fairs, besides campaigns against halal meat and azaan. The polarising Hindutva agenda coupled with development is the new thrust in the BJP electoral campaign strategy.

Prime Minister Modi continues to be the star campaigner for the BJP. However, Modi has the unenviable task of having to inject a fighting spirit in the saffron party. Realising his responsibility, Modi has been making a number of trips to Karnataka, especially during the past four months, in order to gal vanize the campaign, apart from wooing the people of the state. Modi remains the best bet for the party. But, it remains to be seen whether the 'Modi Magic' can really work to the extent that it does make a difference on the ground.

Given the close fight between the two national parties, the Janata Dal (Secular) is unlikely to make much of an impact on the outcome of the Assembly elections. The JD (S) named former Union Minister CM Ibrahim as its state unit president in the hope of making inroads into the Muslim vote, besides consolidating its own stranglehold on the Vokkaligas. But, going by the polarisation between the Congress and the BJP, the JD (S) impact could only be marginal.

The writer is a Delhi-based senior journalist and political commentator.

## SPECTRUM HISTORY

## Despatches from a neglected past



Anwesh Satpathy

THE QUESTION **OF MOVING AWAY FROM ESTABLISHED** 'MAINSTREAM' **HISTORY HAS BEEN GAINING TRACTION IN RECENT YEARS** 

gaining traction in recent years. A spate of successful best-selling books on overlooked figures like Subhash Bose, Vallabhai Patel, Bhagat Singh, and Savarkar testify to a desire among the masses to explore the alternative revolutionary movement of the Independence movement. Though these historical figures are often popular names, their names and ideas barely feature in established textbooks. Vikram Sampath first joined the chorus of these "new" historians through his well-researched albeit sympathetic biography of Savarkar. In his new book "Bravehearts of Bharat," he wades into farther uncharted territory. Chronicling the lives of 15 "bravehearts", Sampath seeks to subvert the perception of mainstream history as a "long litany of failures".

Indian historiography's other glaring loophole, Sampath points out in the introduction, is its focus on Delhi. Thus, the Ahoms of Assam, the Karkotas of Kashmir and the Vijayanagara Empire are reduced to being "regional" history while the relatively smaller (and briefer) Delhi Sultanate is treated as "national history". The absence of women in our collective narra-

The question of moving away tive of valour is sought to be re-Nevertheless, we never get a clear Caliph's harem. Enraged, the Caliph from established "main- dressed in the book by its inclu- answer as to the common values or orders Qasim to be arrested and sent its fifteen protagonists.

As one reads the narratives in the book, the difficulty in constructing even a brief episode comes to light. For many "bravehearts" included in the book, the written record is scarce. Thus, in many instances, Sampath does not shy away from using oral narratives as a supplement to the written record. There is enough material in this book for the reader to have an "aha' movement, especially if they are ignorant of the figures mentioned. We learn of the navigational genius of the Cholas, the bravery of Rani Naiki Devi against the ferocious Muhammad Ghori, the attempt to reform the birth based social-order by Rudrama Devi, and the courage of Begum Hazrat Mahal during the 1857 rebellion which was later

eloquently praised by Savarkar. What is lacking in the book, how ever, is a shared narrative. Had Sampath been content to only tell us stories of brave warriors of India, this book might have been just fine. For Sampath, these heroes are not just "bravehearts", they are civilizational heroes. Ahilya Bai is praised for ushering in a "civilizational renaissance" through the construction of temples.

they defended. How does one decide who is to be included and who is to be excluded? Many of the warriors in the book fought against Mughal emperors. It is safe to assume, then, that the Mughals are not part of the civilization that Sampath is referring to. If the Mughals are excluded on the basis of their foreign origins or religious allegiance, then what makes Begum Hazrat Mahal a "civilizational warrior"? If it's the values that really matter, then those values and philosophy are never adequately defended or elaborated upon at any length in this book.

For the sake of smooth narrative, historical nuances are often skimmed over in this book. The most glaring instance of this is Sampath's account of the invasion of Sindh in the first chapter. It's based largely on the 13th century text "The Chachnama". This text is not intended to be a historical narrative and as such exaggerates and fabricates many events for literary and romantic value. According to Sampath's narrative, Muhammad Bin Qasim died after the daughters of Raja Dahir convinced the Caliph that Qasim had "used" them before sending them off to the

results in his death from suffocation. The daughters of Dahir confess their lie which results in them being buried alive as "true warriors". This narrative is taken from The Chachnama and is of dubious authenticity. According to the 9th century historian Al-Baladhuri. Qasim was killed due to family feud. Sampath is aware of this but never mentions it in the main text, instead referring to it briefly in the notes. According to most historians, it's the older account of Al-Baladhuri that's likely to be more authentic. We never get a reason as to why Sampath preferred the romantic version over the more reliable and older version. This is particularly surprising since Sampath's more rigorous two-volume biography of Savarkar leads one to expect this work to be just as historically rigorous, if not unsympathetic.

Nevertheless, the book still serves as a good introductory work to these figures who are largely unknown outside of their own region.

> The author is a writer and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhuhaneswar-751010

## Cyber menace

Sir, There seems to be no respite from the increasing cybercrime menace in our country. With new improved techniques, the technically qualified fraudsters are siphoning off in no time the hard-earned money of bank account holders. Earlier they were targeting gullible bank customers in ATM kiosks in the guise of an 'expert' or a 'helping hand' who could set right their PIN or OTP required for withdrawal. As the customers' awareness increased and they started taking precautions with the help of advisories and alert messages issued by banking institutions and more so by the central bank, the cyber criminals have of late resorted to more sophisticated ways of duping all sections of customers. The worst victims however, are senior citizens and gullible people residing in rural areas. To safeguard the interests of their valued customers, the bank management must take fruitful steps for preventing recurring frauds with technological support.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

## Shot in arm

Sir, Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar snapped a fourdecade-long tie with the BJP and joined the Congress after being denied a ticket to contest the May 10 Assembly elections. Shettar follows in the footsteps of former Deputy Chief Minister and Athani MLA Laxman Savadi, who had joined the Congress earlier. A six-time MLA, Shettar's move comes as a shot in the arm for the Grand Old Party.

NJ Ravi Chander. BANGALORE

## Craft & adroitness

Sir, Playing only in his second game in IPL after warming up the bench for two seasons, Arjun Tendulkar, son of legendary cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, has already impressed everyone with his left-arm seam bowling. In the match against SRH, the young pacer showed his craft and adroitness in stretching back his lengths when he bowled to the aggressive Harry Brook, and held his nerves while bowling the last over, conceding just five runs and picking up his maiden IPL wicket. Arjun's clever bowling is a big takeaway for Rohit Sharma and MI, who will now have more confidence in him when bowling in the death overs. Tendulkar II is carving a niche for himself and truly emerging from the shadows of his illustrious father. No doubt, Sachin must have been chuffed to bits watching his son seal MI's win, a team he himself represented during his playing career.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national



I will resign if it is proven that I called up **Amit Shah over TMC's** national party status MAMATA BANERJEE

#### **OVER 50 KIDS FALL ILL AT SHELTER HOME**

More than 50 children at a temporary shelter home in Assam's Nagaon district suddenly fell ill Wednesday for unknown reasons, an official said. The incident took place in the Doboka area





Drug traders are the main culprits as the drug consumers are the victims. We have to take a ruthless approach against the drug traders and the strongest possible action should be taken against them AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

For making the call to Delhi. you used a landline. I'd expose

you in due time. Wait



Our priority is to help people affected by inflation. We need to spread awareness about Mehangai Rahat Camps and ensure that people



ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 6 killed, 14 hurt in two accidents

Ujjain/Sehore: Six persons, including three women, were killed and 14 injured in two road accidents in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore and Ujjain districts in the past 24 hours, police said. Around 2 pm Wednesday, a van carrying 17 persons overturned and fell into a gorge at Pali Ghat near Budhni in Sehore district, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Shashank Gurjar said. The van was carrying a few residents of Adampur village and was going towards Salkanpur, he said. Three women were killed and 14 injured in the accident, he said. In Ujjain district, two minor boys and another person were killed when their car hit a tree on Ujjain-Dewas Road late Tuesday night, Madhav Nagar police station in charge Manish Lodha said.

### PM Modi to visit **Kerala for 2 days**

Thiruvananthapuram: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Kerala April 24 for a two-day visit and attend a host of programmes including the flagging off of the much-awaited Vande Bharat Express train here. The BIP state unit, which is making all arrangements to accord a grand reception to the PM, shared a poster on Facebook announcing his visit, saying the "world leader" was coming to Kerala and tens of thousands of people would take part in a huge road show in Kochi April 24.

## Over 100 shops gutted in Howrah

Howrah: Over 100 shops were gutted as a massive fire devastated a market in West Bengal's Howrah district in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said. The fire broke out at the Ludlow Bazar in Chengail in Uluberia police station area around midnight, they said. It spread fast, gutting over 100 shops, many of which were temporary structures. Ten fire tenders brought the blaze under control after fighting it for over four hours, officials said.

## **Building collapses**

Chennai: A 70-year-old building in Chennai, which was under renovation. collapsed Wednesday, leading to the injuries of two people, while four others were feared trapped in the debris. According to witnesses, the two injured persons were standing near the building in Parry's Corner when it collapsed. They have been admitted to the Government Stanley Medical College

## **SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

## **NO DATA TO BACK CENTRE'S 'URBAN ELITIST' CLAIM: SC**

*The Centre, in one of its* affidavits filed in the top court, termed the petitions a reflection of "urban elitist" view for the purpose of social acceptance & said recognition of marriage is essentially a legislative function which the courts should refrain from adjudicating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: The state cannot discriminate against an individual on the basis of sexual characteristic over which the person has no control, the Supreme Court said Wednesday, asserting the Centre has no data to back up its claim that the concept of same-sex marriage is "elitist" or "urban". The apex court was hearing a batch of petitions seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage.

"It is very simple, **Justice of India** the State cannot discriminate against DY Chandrachud's an individual on remark came after the the basis of a characteristic centre's submission that over which the the petitions seeking gay person has no control," a fivemarriage rights reflect judge constitution 'urban elitist views' bench headed by Chief Justice D Y decision on the issue

ing on the pleas. The Centre, in one of its affidavits filed in the apex court, termed the petitions a reflection of "urban elitist" view for the purpose of social acceptance and said recognition of marriage is essentially a leg-

second day of day-long hear-

Chandrachud said on the

should refrain from adjudicating. Apparently agreeing with the

submissions of senior advocate A M Singhi, appearing for one of the petitioners, the bench said, "When you say that this is an innate characteristic then it is also an argument in response to the contention (of the Centre) this is elitist or urban or it has a certain class bias.

"When something is innate, then it cannot have the class bias. It may be more urban in its manifestations because the people in urban areas are coming out of closed closet. Anyway, no data is forthcoming from the government to indicate that this is urban. No data at all," observed the bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul, SR Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha. Singhvi stressed that every averment made by the Centre in the affidavit is without a "single survey, single data". Another senior advocate, K V Viswanathan, who also represented one of the pe titioners, said branding the petitioners as "urban elitist" showed "absolute lack of grace". "The Union should have shown some grace," Viswanathan said.

At the start of the day's hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, filed a fresh affidavit urging the bench that all states and Union Territories be made parties to the proceedings as any

> views will render the present "adversarial exercise" incomplete and truncated. During the hearing, the bench also deliberated upon the conse-

without obtaining their

quences of legalising same-sex marriage including adoption and different marriageable age for male and female.





DAILY GRIND: A hand rickshaw puller ferries passengers during a hot summer day in Kolkata, West Bengal

## **Atiq killers sent** to police custody

AGENCIES

Prayagraj (UP), April 19: The three persons accused of killing gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Mohammad Ashraf were sent to police custody for four days by the court of chief judicial magistrate here Wednesday.

Lovelesh Tiwari, Mohit and Arun Kumar Maurya were produced in the court amid tight security Wednesday morning as the police sought a sevenday remand. Passing the order later, the court sent them to police custody for four days-from 2 pm Wednesday till 5 pm April 23, district government advocate Gulab Chandra Agrahari said. Atiq Ahmad (60) and his brother Ashraf were shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction on Saturday night while police personnel were escorting them to a medical college in Prayagraj for a checkup.

An FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and under the Arms Act was registered against the three alleged assailants of Atiq and Ashraf at Shahganj police station. Meanwhile, five policemen were suspended in Prayagraj.

The suspended police officers include Shahganj SHO Ashwani Kumar Singh, a sub-inspector and three constables. The SIT probe into the incident has revealed negligence of duty on the part of the

## Cov threat: PMO reviews situation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 19: Amid rising cases of coronavirus across the country, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PK Mishra, Wednesday undertook a review meeting to oversee the level of preparedness and public health response to it.

According to sources in the know of things, Mishra advised officials to ensure operational readiness of hospital infrastructure till the sub-district level. He also highlighted the need to examine the Covid-19 situation regularly and update advisories to guide the Mishra also exhorted upon con-

tinuation of the ongoing timetested strategy of Test-Track Treat-Vaccination and adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour among the people. A presentation was made by Health Secretary Raiesh Bhushan during the meeting, where he provided an overview of the global Covid-19 situation. He highlighted that India has been witnessing a rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 cases with the majority of cases being reported in eight states, namely Kerala, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Rajasthan. The Health Secretary further

## **FRESH 1K-PLUS CASES IN MAHA**

Mumbai: With 1,100 new cases of

Covid-19, the Maharashtra government has started 25 dedicated hospitals for the patients with all other arrangements to treat critical cases, Medical Education Minister Girish Mahajan said here Wednesday. Taking a detailed review of the Covid-19 preparedness, Mahajan interacted with the deans of all government medical colleges and hospitals in the state besides top officials of his department, including Dr Ashwini Joshi, Rajiv Nivatkar, Dr Dilip Mhaisekar, Dr Ajay Chandanwale, principals and others.

said that states have already been advised that they may take steps for procurement of the requisite Covid vaccine doses directly from the manufacturers at their end without any prior approvals from the Union Health Ministry. Private hospitals in the states may also directly procure such vaccines from the manufacturer, it was informed during the meeting. These vaccines once procured may be administered as per the existing Covid vaccination guidelines.

## **Cabinet gives nod** to Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Apr il19: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 that has provisions to curb transmission of pirated film content on the internet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said.

Briefing reporters on the decisions of the Union Cabinet, Thakur said the bill will be introduced in the upcoming session of Parliament. He said the bill also has provisions to classify films on the basis of age group, instead of the current practice of 'U', 'A', and 'UA'.

"U" is for unrestricted public exhibition and "A" is restricted to adult audiences, while "UA" is for unrestricted public exhibition subject to parental guidance for children below the age of 12 and "S" for special category audiences such as doctors and scientists. It is learnt that the amendments seek to add new classification - "UA-7+", "UA-13+" and "UA-16+" in place for 12 years. Besides improving the process to certify films by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the amendments also seek to bring about uniformity in categorisation of films

The amendments are also expected to harmonise the law with executive orders and various Supreme Court judgements

and content across platforms.

## Cabinet nod for National Quantum Mission

*India will be the seventh country to have a* dedicated quantum mission after the US. Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: The government Wednesday approved the National Quantum Mission to nurture and scale up scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology.

The mission involves a cost of ₹6,003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31. The National Quantum Mission (NQM), approved at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will accelerate quantum technology-led economic growth and nurture the ecosystem in the country.

"NQM is going to give India a quantum jump in this arena." Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh told reporters here. "They are also at the R&D stage. None of them has started any applications of it (quantum technology). We are also going to be at par," Singh said. He said satellite-based secure quan-



tum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 km within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other countries, intercity quantum key distribution over 2,000 km as well as multi-node quantum network with quantum memories are also some of the deliverables of the mission. The National Quantum Mission will be headed by a mission director with a dedicated secretariat.

The Governing Body of the mission will be chaired by a renowned scientist or an entrepreneur from the technology, industry or research sector. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said. He said the Mission Technology Research Council will be headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor and will be the scientific advisory mechanism for the Governing Body. Singh said the mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and atomic clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation

## Jamtara-based fraud syndicate busted; 21,000 SIM cards seized

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 19: A syndicate, based in Jharkhand's Jamtara, defrauding gullible bank customers by pretending to be staff of a prominent bank has been busted by the Delhi Police with the arrest of six of its members and nearly 22,000 SIM cards recovered, a police official said Wednesday.

The accused were identified as Nizamudin Ansari alias Nizam, 23, Afroz Alam, 23, Md Amir Ansari, 22, Sarfaraz Ansari, 22, Afroz Ansari, 22, all residents of Jamtara, and Nasim Malitya (31), a resident of

West Bengal's Murshidabad. The action came following a complaint by a man from whose account ₹10 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn. According to police, the complainant, presently residing at Dubai, has come to Delhi to visit his daughter studying in the Delhi Technological University and wanted to get her bank passbook updated. For this, he searched for customer care number online.

During investigation, the call details record of the phone numbers sought, money trail was probed and details from SBI and Billdesk payment gateway taken on record

## Air pollution, heat linked to lower sleep quality: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Air pollution, heat, and high levels of carbon dioxide and ambient noise may all adversely affect our ability to get a good night's sleep, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Sleep Health, is one of the first to measure multiple environmental variables in the bedroom and analyse their associations with sleep efficiency—the time spent sleeping relative to the time available for sleep.

The researchers found that in a group of 62 participants tracked for two weeks with activity monitors

and sleep logs, higher bedroom levels of air pollution (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size or PM2.5), carbon dioxide, noise, and temperature were all linked independently to lower sleep efficiency.

"These findings highlight the importance of the bedroom environment for high-quality sleep," said study lead author Mathias Basner, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, US. In addition to work and family obligations that compete with sleep for time, a quickly changing environment due to growing urbanisation and climate change seems to have made it harder to get a good night's sleep,



the researchers said.

Sleep that is of inadequate duration, or inadequate efficiency due to frequent disruption, affects work productivity and quality of life. It also has been linked to a higher risk of chronic diseases including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, depression, and dementia, they said

The team, including researchers from the University of Louisville, US, recruited participants from the National

Institutes of that is of inadequate Health Green duration, or inadequate Heart Project efficiency due to frequent that investidisruption, affects work gates the efproductivity and quality of life fects of planting 8,000 mature trees on the

It also has been linked to a higher risk of chronic diseases including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, depression, and cardiovascular

dementia health of Louisville

For each of the environmental variables measured, the researchers

cent of levels versus lowest 20 per cent of levels. They found that high noise was associated with a 4.7

exposures to the highest 20 per

per cent decline in sleep ef ficiency, high carbon dioxide with a 4 per cent reduction, high temperature with a 3.4 per cent decline, and high PM2.5 with a 3.2 per cent reduction. Two other sleep

environment variables, relative humidity and barometric pressure, appeared to have no significant association with sleep efficiency among the participants, according to the researchers.











compared sleep efficiency during

residents.





## TWOSTATES





## THURSDAY | APRIL 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# 'Every 3rd coal worker in J'khand prefers farming'

in Jharkhand', the first-of-its-kind

by Climate Trends, in partnership

with Ernst & Young LLP, was re-

leased in the backdrop of India's

The survey was primarily aimed

at exploring the kind and type of

livelihood opportunities that will

enable a just energy transition in

Jharkhand in a future where coal

plants are phased down and re-

newables ramped up in line with

the government policies and targets.

five districts -- Ranchi, Dhanbad,

Ramgarh, Chatra and Bokaro --

from the organised sector (ther-

mal power plants and mines), and

2,000 unorganised workers, along

with 26 policy and sectoral experts.

It was aimed at understanding the

challenges and opportunities of

transitioning away from coal and

to clean energy sources in a coal-

At least 20 focussed group dis-

cussions (FGDs) were conducted

among the respondents, which

were aimed to highlight the work-

ers' voice, as the state transitions

Arindam Banerjee, Project

Communications Advisory Unit,

Chief Minister's Office in

Jharkhand, said, "This report is a

significant contribution to the on-

going discussion on India's tran-

sition to clean energy sources and

Policy

away from coal.

rich state such as Jharkhand.

among 6,000 coal workers.

The study was conducted across

Among those, 4,000 workers were

G20 presidency.



**TARGET FOR ACHIEVING NET-ZERO BY 2070 AND IS FOCUSED ON A** 'COAL PHASE-DOWN' **APPROACH** 

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 19: One in every three coal workers in Jharkhand prefers agriculture as an alterna tive livelihood option once India moves away from coal and towards clean energy sources to meet its netzero goals, according to a new study

The study on alternative liveli hoods aimed to provide insights into how India could transition to a more sustainable economy in a way that is equitable and inclusive for all stakeholders.

Jharkhand has 113 operational mines that account for over onefourth (26 per cent) of all coal mines in India, and generate more than 115 MT of coal every year.

The coal mining industry in Jharkhand supports nearly 3 lakh direct coal mining jobs, 38 per cent of all such jobs in India. Ultimately, India must prioritise the expansion of renewable energy sources to meet its growing energy needs. The study, 'Livelihood

Opportunities for a Just Transition

Jharkhand has 113 operational mines that account for over one-fourth (26 per cent) of all coal mines in India

The coal mining industry in Jharkhand supports nearly 3 lakh direct coal mining jobs, 38 per cent of all such jobs in India

its impact on vulnerable commu-

Aarti Khosla, Director, Climate Trends, told IANS that with India's commitment to reach net-zero by 2070, abatement of coal does become an important consideration.

Equally important is to undertake scientific mine closure, ensure additional power needs are met by renewables, and take socioeconomic parameters of communities in account as and when mines are shut.

'Focus is on India this year, and as the hosts of G20 there is an opening to seize the momentum and demonstrate that India's energy future is dominated by clean energy. This report establishes the need for skill development to help local communities tide over the transition to clean energy systems."

"It offers recommendations to confidently embrace the policy level, sectoral level, and individual level changes the energy transition goals will bring," she added.

India has set a target for achieving net-zero by 2070 and is focused on a 'coal phase-down' approach.

However, a coal phase-down threatens the livelihoods of millions of workers and communities who depend on the coal sector for their sustenance and livelihoods across multiple states in the country.

The impact of such a phasedown will be higher for states such as Jharkhand with a large number of mines and high levels of coal production.

"The findings of the report are crucial in shaping policy decisions on a just transition plan for Jharkhand and other coalrich states in India," said Amit Kumar, Associate Partner, Ernst



SUNNY DAY: Students use scarves and umbrellas to shield themselves from the hot summer sun while returning from school, in Ranchi, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

## No religious event allowed on roads: UP govt

Under no circumstances should any religious event be held by obstructing roads and traffic, says an official release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 19: In view of upcoming festivals like Eid and Akshay Tritiya, the Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday issued directions regarding holding programmes in the state and ordered that no religious event be held by obstructing roads and traffic.

Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad, Director General of Police (DGP) RK Vishwakarma and other senior officials held a review meeting with all field officials posted in the state through video conferencing and issued necessary guidelines, an official



release said.

There should be adequate arrangements for the security of religious places and additional police forces should be deployed in sensitive areas, DGP

Prasad directed all the concerned officers posted in the field to ensure that religious programmes, worshipping, etc take place at the designated places only. Under no circumstances should any religious event be held by obstructing roads and traffic, the release said.

"In the past, we have been able to do this through communication. This year also, we have to make the same effort," he said.

According to the release, no religious procession or any other procession should be taken out without due permission. Permission should be given only to those religious processions that are traditional, and unnecessary permission should not be given to

The principal secretary also told the officers to be vigilant about social media and ensure immediate response to any attempt aimed to spread fake news. A senior officer should do a refutation of rumour/fake news, he said.

"The safety of every citizen in the state is the primary responsibility of all of us. The month of Ramzan is going on. Eid-ul-Fitr, Akshava Tritiva and Parshuram Jayanti are likely to be celebrated on the same day April 22. In view of the present environment, the police will have to be extra careful,' Prasad said.

"Deal sternly with those issuing mischievous statements. Strict action should be taken against the chaotic elements that try to cause harm to the peaceful atmosphere in the state," he said.

DGP Vishwakarma took the details of the preparations made for the upcoming festivals from all the zone/range/district level officers and instructed that police force should continuously patrol congested areas and senior officers should also participate in it.

## Ram Lalla to be depicted as an archer at Ayodhya temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, April 19: The idol of Ram Lalla to be installed at the under-construction temple in Ayodhya will be in the form of an archer and carved out of 'krishna shila' or black stone from Karnataka, the trust entrusted with the work has decided.

The five-foot-tall idol will be carved by Arun Yogiraj, a noted sculptor from Mysuru.

At its two-day meeting which concluded here late Tuesday evening, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust finalised the specifications of the idol.

The new idol of Lord Ram, in his five-year-old avatar, will be fivefoot tall. The idol will be in a standing posture armed with a bow and



arrow, trust member Swami Teerth Prasannyacharya said here Wednesday.

"Arun Yogiraj will carve the idol out of stone brought to Ayodhya from Karnataka's Karkar and Hegge Deven Kote villages.... The

sculptor will finalise the stone which the idol will be carved out

of," he added. Trust general secretary Champat Rai said they selected 'krishna shila' following consultations among seers, geologists, sculptors, experts of Hindu scriptures and trust of-

Devotees are eagerly waiting for the new idol of Ram Lalla that is to be placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple on the festival of Makar Sankranti next year, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the bhoomi pujan for the construction of the temple August 2, 2020.

The temple is being constructed following the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute.

In its ruling November 9, 2019, the Supreme Court mandated that a Ram temple be built on the 2.77acre site where the Babri Masjid once stood and that five acres be set aside for the construction of a mosque within the district of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

## Bandh for 100% local quota in govt jobs gets mixed response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, April 19: Public transport was affected and schools remained closed as the 12-hour shutdown by several students organisations demanding 100 per cent reservation for locals in state government jobs evoked a mixed response in Jharkhand Wednesday.

Members of different organisations under the banner of the Jharkhand State Students' Union (JSSU) took to the streets to enforce a state-wide shutdown, which began at 6am.

Several student leaders were detained across the state for blocking roads by burning tyres and creating a ruckus, police said.

Long-route buses were mostly off the roads and schools remained closed in many districts. However, shops, offices and business establishments were open in most of the districts, and auto-rickshaws operated as usual

"Over 30 bandh supporters were detained in Ranchi for trying to create disturbance in traffic move**Several student leaders** detained across the state for blocking roads by burning tyres and creating a ruckus

ment," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishor Kaushal said.

He said the district administration made an elaborate arrangement in view of the bandh.

"Situation remained normal at railway stations and bus stands in Ranchi city," Kaushal said. Around 2,500 security personnel were deployed in the city to maintain the law and order situation, officials said. The Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) cancelled the scheduled examinations in view of the bandh.

In Dumka and Sahibganj districts, markets and business establishments were shut, buses were off the roads, and schools and colleges remained closed. However, government offices functioned as usual.

Normal life was largely unaf-

fected in Dhanbad, Jamshedpur and Godda as shops and business establishments were open and autorickshaws plied as usual.

The student organisations have been protesting since Monday as part of their 72-hour agitation programme, demanding 100 per cent reservation for locals in government jobs. On Tuesday evening, the protesters took out a torchlight march in Ranchi. They had attempted to gherao Chief Minister Hemanta Soren's residence Monday

but were stopped by the police. JSSU leader Devendra Mahto said, "This government had promised 100 per cent reservation in government jobs for locals but has opened the door to students from outside the state, forcing us to call the bandh.'

Instead of implementing the 1932 'khatiyan' (land settlement) based recruitment scheme, it brought back an old employment policy under which 60 per cent of the seats will be reserved for underprivileged students, while 40 per cent will be open to all, he said.

## Alarm over stray dog menace in Taj city

This issue is being vociferously raised in the campaign to local bodies' elections now underway

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, April 19: An alarm has been raised in the Taj city and neighbouring districts after a series of violent attacks by stray dogs, leading to deaths.

Citizens groups in Agra Mathura, Firozabad have demanded drastic action against violent and aggressive dogs to contain the growing canine menace. Already these cities are facing a huge simian

The Agra municipal corporation estimates that there are more than 60,000 dogs in the city. Each day 500 cases of dog bites are reported. In the past six months, more than 10,000 dogs have been sterilized. Dr Ajay Singh, animal welfare officer said the target is to sterilize

60,000 stray dogs. The family members of the victims said the dogs had turned aggressive and violent. The people were feeling terrorised and were even scared to walk on the roads.



Recently a two-year-old girl was brutally mauled and killed by dogs in the Malpura area.

In Aligarh, a doctor on a morning walk was fatally mauled by a herd of aggressive dogs.

The university administration has formed three teams of dogcatchers from the Aligarh Nagar Nigam. Over a dozen dogs were caught. The Nagar Nigam teams of dog-catchers will carry out more dog-catching drives in residential halls, including the Abdullah Hall of Residence for girls.

Dr Abedi said the dog-catcher teams carried out their operation in the areas covering Sir Syed House, RCA Hostel, Department of Wildlife Sciences, MM Hall, and Medical Colony. He said that the Nagar Nigam authorities have assured that dog-catching operations will be carried out on the university campus periodically and all possible help will be provided to the

The cities in the Taj acing a huge, bovine, canine, and simian menace, MUKTA GUPTA | SOCIAL ACTIVIST

university administration. While animal rights activists resist action against stray dogs and appeal to people to feed them regularly, the ordinary citizens of

the cities want them killed. This issue is being vociferously raised in the campaign to local bodies elections now underway.

The cities in the Taj Trapezium Zone are facing a huge, bovine, canine, and simian menace, threatening human life, says social activist Mukta Gupta. To compound the problem is the news that the district hospitals are running short of antirabies injections. The municipalities must wake up to the emerging threat, Mukta adds.



STRIKE-STRUCK: Police personnel use lathi charge to disperse protesters while students staged a demonstration against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren over the employment policy, in Ranchi, Wednesday

# national



**Himachal Pradesh University should focus on** research and innovation to address the ecological challenges in the region due to climate change

DROUPADI MURMU PRESIDENT OF INDIA

### **SPECIAL SESSION FOR SUNSTROKE DEATHS**

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole Wednesday demanded a two-day special session of the state Legislature to discuss the deaths tied to the Maharashtra Bhushan Award function, blaming the Eknath Shinde government for "mismanagement"





The situation is tense due to the deployment of PLA troops in the northern sector. Our armed forces, especially the Indian

Army, will have to continuously keep their vigilance in order to maintain the security of the LAC

RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

Congress has everything to Azad and Scindia and both were asked to



DIGVIJAYA SINGH | SENIOR CONG LEADER

Though the drone policy of the state was framed way back, much is to be done to fully adopt and give practical shape to it



SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL

#### SHORT **TAKES**

### LS polls: EC begins preparations

New Delhi: The Election Commission has started preparing for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls by commencing the manufacturing of 8.92 lakh new Voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines and retiring 2.71 lakh such M2 model machines, sources said on Wednesday. They also said the poll panel has identified 3.43 lakh VVPATs for "preventive maintenance" and 2.43 lakh for upgrade to reduce nachine replacement rate. The poll panel undertakes the exercise of checking electronic voting machines and paper trail machines ahead of every Lok Sabha polls, the sources said.

## Army personnel

New Delhi: IAF helicopters Wednesday rescued 13 Army personnel from a mountainous were injured in a road accident. The IAF deployed the helicopters to rescue the Army personnel after it received information about the accident, officials said. In a tweet, the IAF said the Army nersonnel were rescued from the area that is on an altitude of 14.000 feet. "On 19 Apr 23, amidst the harsh terrain & inclement weather of North Sikkim, IAF heliconters successfully rescued 13 Armv personnel injured in a road accident from an altitude of 14,000 ft," it said.

New Delhi: A 16-year-old boy, who was recently released from a juvenile correction home, was stabbed to death by unidentified people on Delhi-Saharanpur highway Wednesday, an official said. A senior police official said that around 10:28 a.m., Shastri Park police station received a call regarding a body on second Pushta near pillar No. 92 -93 on Delhi Saharanpur Expressway following which a police team

## Three kids drown

New Delhi: Three children drowned in a pond in which they were allegedly bathing near Yamuna Khadar in northeast Delhi's Shastri Park on Wednesday, police said. Police personnel, who were in the area in connection with a murder case, saw the children drowning around 12.30 pm and tried to pull them out. The children were then rushed to Jag Pravesh Chandra hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Joy Tirkey. Later, the bodies were shifted to GTB Hospital for post-mortem examination, the DCP said

## Alcohol abuse major cause of liver disorders: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Alcohol abuse is the major cause of increase in liver disorders in the country, experts pointed out at the second edition of the India Liver Health Summit organised Wednesday.

The summit was organised by the health think tank, Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council and Institute of Liver and Biliary Science (ILBS Delhi). The experts also highlighted the role of regular health check-ups coupled with awareness on the significance of healthy liver on overall health as the need of the hour. While discussing the impact of

alcohol abuse on liver, Dr S K Sarin, Professor and Chancellor, ILBS pointed out, "Almost half of the patients who come to us with liver disorders are those who have alcohol addiction." He further added, "Binge drinking should be avoided and the role of family and society is very important in this regard. Also, awareness on the ill-effects of alcohol consumption needs to be instilled right from childhood." The event was organised to commem-



orate World Liver Day, a day observed worldwide to create awareness on the significance of a healthy liver and initiate lifestyle changes to achieve it. The day also witnessed the launch of Play-Safe, a joint

Light rains in

Sun-scorched

north India are

likely to bring

some relief in

next three

initiative of IHW Council and ILBS, to enhance societal and family support and awareness to protect liver from alcohol abuse especially amongst the youth. The campaign launch featured participation from an array of speakers, including Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi who emphasised that children should be used as ambassadors for motivating their family members to abstain from alcohol use. He also added, "Alcoholism leads to sexual abuse of children and many other vices in the society resulting in a vicious circle that needs to

end. Doctors, religious leaders and the media should come together to create awareness on the negative impact of alcohol consumption.' The launch was followed by a pledge to motivate youngsters to abstain from alcohol addiction and create awareness on the same. While taking part in the discussion Kamal Narayan, CEO of IHW Council, observed that all relevant stakeholders, including the pharma industry, government and nephrologists, need to come together for integrated liver health management instead of working in silos.

## AGENCIES

Haveri (K'taka), April 19: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavarai Bommai Wednesday filed his nomination for the May 10 Assembly polls from his traditional seat of Shiggaon in this district amid fanfare.

K'TAKA POLLS

Bommai files

nomination

He was accompanied by BJP national president JP Nadda and Kannada film star Sudeep, as he filed his papers before the election returning officer. Bommai is seeking re-election from Shiggaon, from where he has been an MLA three times since

Earlier, he visited temples, and also held a massive road show along with Nadda and Sudeep in Shiggaon. Hundreds of people gathered as Bommai, Nadda and Sudeep travelled through the streets in a speciallydesigned vehicle, after garlanding the statue of Kittur Rani Chennamma, who in 1824 led an armed resistance against the British East India Company.

They later addressed a public meeting, seeking votes for Bommai and the BJP. Addressing the gathering, Nadda said the nomination which Bommai was filing today was not just for the MLA's post, "but it is a way that will give direction for Karnataka to move ahead".

"Looking at your enthusiasm I'm sure that you have decided to send Bommai here to the Assembly for the next five years. I have not come here just to ask for Bommai from you, but have come to seek vote from you on the lotus symbol so that the 'Ganga' of continuous development keeps

flowing in Karnataka," he said. He all hit out at the Congress accusing it of being corrupt, and warned that it would use Karnataka as its ATM on coming to power, and would also will withdraw the ban on the Islamic political organisation Popular Front of India, which would increase communal and violent

## **Heatwave conditions intensify**

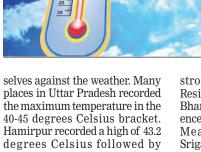
Heatwaves in India are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, with over 90% of the country in the 'danger zone' of their impacts, according to study

New Delhi, April 19: Heatwave conditions intensified Wednesday in most parts of the country, including eastern states with Tripura declaring a 'state specific disaster'.

The national capital, parts of which reeled under heatwave conditions for the past few days, had some relief Wednesday with strong winds and partly cloudy skies witnessed during the day.

Delhi, which had recorded above 40 degree-mark in the past few days, recorded a maximum of 38 degrees Celsius. "The maximum temperature is likely to drop by another two to three degrees over the next two days in the city," a MeT official said. According to IMD, heatwave con-

ditions are prevailing in isolated pockets over Gangetic West Bengal since the last eight days; coastal Andhra Pradesh since the last six days; Bihar since the last five days; and Punjab and Haryana since the last two days. Tripura, reeling  $under\ hot\ weather\ conditions\ since$ last week, Wednesday decided to identity heatwave, sunstroke and sunburn as 'state specific disasters' and requested the people to take necessary steps to guard them-



Kushinagar 44.1 degrees, Jhansi 43.6 degrees, Agra 43.4 degrees and Kanpur 43 degrees Celsius, the MeT said. The weather is likely to remain dry over eastern Uttar Pradesh while rain is expected at isolated places in the western part of the state, it said. With dust storm and light rains hitting parts of east Rajasthan, the meteorological department predicted a dip of 2-4 degrees Celsius

in the maximum temperature.

Dust storm conditions were wit-

nessed in several areas in Bikaner

and Jodhpur divisions. Jaisalmer

and Bikaner regions were hit by a

strong dust storm Wednesday. Residents in Ajmer, Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions also experienced dust storms, the MeT said. Meanwhile, Suratgarh in Sriganganagar recorded a maximum of 19 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours.

days

The weather department has predicted thunderstorm with strong winds of 30-40 kmph and light to moderate rain at some places in Jaipur and Bharatpur division on Thursday. The higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh received a fresh spell of snow, while many other parts were lashed by rains, with the weather office warning of heavy rainfall in the state Wednesday. The sky remained overcast in Shimla and surrounding areas with fog reducing the visibility to a few metres in the morning.

## **FCRA VIOLATION**

# CBI registers FIR against Oxfam India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: The CBI registered an FIR against Oxfam India and its office-bearers for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and carried out searches at its office here, officials said Wednesday.

The FIR against the Indian arm of the global NGO Oxfam was registered based on a complaint from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The complaint, which is now part of the FIR, has alleged that though Oxfam India's FCRA registration ceased, it planned to circumvent the law by taking other routes to channelise funds.

"Email communication found during IT (income tax) survey by the CBDT shows that Oxfam India has been planning to pressure Indian government for renewal of FCRA through foreign governments and foreign institutions," it alleged. "The Oxfam India has the reach and influence to request multilateral foreign organisations to intervene on its behalf with the Government of India," it alleged.

The complaint alleged that this exposed Oxfam India as "a probable instrument of foreign policy



- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out searches at the office of Oxfam India in Delhi
- In a statement earlier this month, Oxfam India said it is fully compliant with Indian laws

of foreign organisations or entities" which have funded it liberally over the years. It alleged that Oxfam India routed funds of its foreign affiliates such as Oxfam Australia and Oxfam Great Britain to certain NGOs and exercised control over the project.

"From the email found during IT survey by the CBDT it appears that Oxfam India is providing funds to the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) through its associates/emplovees in the form of commission. The same is also reflected from the TDS data of Oxfam India which shows payment of Rs 12.71 lakh to CPR in the F.Y. 2019-20..., the complaint has alleged.

## IAF rescues 13

area in North Sikkim after they

## **Boy stabbed** to death

rushed to the spot.

## Apple CEO meets PM

According to government sources, iPhone maker Apple is likely to double the employment base at its contract manufacturers in India to around 2 lakh soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Apple chief executive Tim Cook Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the iPhone manufacturer is looking to invest more in the world's second-largest smartphone market.

According to government sources, iPhone maker Apple is likely to double the employment base at its contract manufacturers in India to around 2 lakh soon. "An absolute delight to meet you,



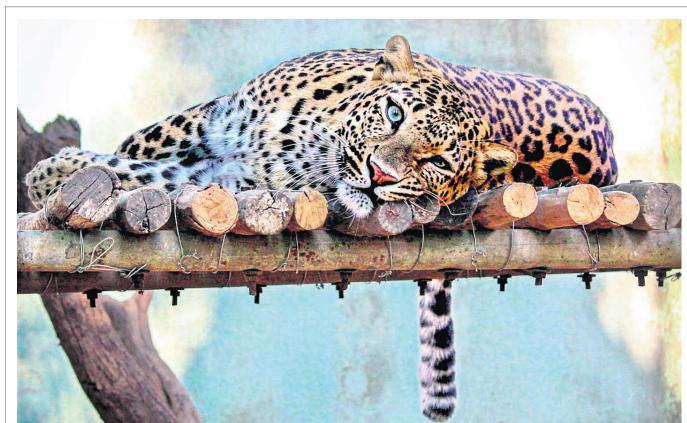
@tim\_cook! Glad to exchange views on diverse topics and highlight the tech-powered transformations taking place in India," Prime Minister tweeted on meeting Apple CEO.

Cook, on his first trip to India in seven years, opened Apple's first official retail store in the country in Mumbai Tuesday and will launch another in Delhi Thursday.

'Thank you Prime Minister @narendramodi for the warm welcome. We share your vision of the positive impact technology can make on India's future — from education and developers to manufacturing and the environment, we're committed to growing and investing across the country,"Cook tweeted with a picture of him shaking hands with Modi.

Cook had last visited India in 2016 when the tech giant was just beginning to scale up operations in the country.

Looking to replicate what China did to Apple's business in the last 15 years, the tech giant is eyeing India's massive market with an expanding middle class to power sales growth, and potentially make it a home base for the production of millions of Apple devices.



CHILLING OUT: A leopard rests in an enclosure at Maharajbag Zoo in Nagpur, Maharashtra

## Indian diet, tea & turmeric lowered Covid severity: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 19: Indian diet rich in iron, zinc, and fibre, regular consumption of tea, and use of turmeric in meals lowered severity and death due to Covid in the country, according to a study published in the April edition of the Indian Journal of Medical Research by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The study, conducted by an international team of scientists including from India, Brazil, Jordan, Switzerland, and Saudi Arabia, aimed to investigate whether dietary habits were associated with the variations in Covid-19 severity and deaths between Western and Indian population.

"Our results suggest that Indian food components suppress cytokine storm and various other severity-

related pathways of Covid-19 and may have a role in lowering severity and death rates from Covid-19 in India as compared to western populations," said the researchers including from Centre for Genomics and Applied Gene Technology at

Institute of Integrative Omics &

Applied Biotechnology, in West

Bengal, and Policy Center for Biomedical Research at Translational Health Science &

Technology Institute in Haryana. "However, large multi-centered case-control studies are required to support our current findings,' they added. The findings showed that the components of Indian **During the Covid-19** pandemic, the death rate was reportedly 5-8 fold lower in India which is densely populated as compared to lesser-populated western countries

diets, which maintain high iron and zinc concentrations in blood and rich fibre in foods, played a role in preventing carbon dioxide (CO2) and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-

mediated Covid-19 severity. LPS is a common inflammatory mediator to induce inflammatory

processes in the brain. Further, regular consumption of tea by Indians helped maintain

high HDL (high-density lipoprotein), also called "good" cholesterol. The catechins in tea also acted as a natural atorvastatin (a statin medication used to prevent cardiovascular diseases) in lowering triglyceride in blood.

Importantly, they said, regular consumption of turmeric in daily food by Indians led to a strong immunity. The curcumin in turmeric may have prevented pathways and mechanisms associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection and Covid-19 severitv and lowered the death rate, said the researchers.

On the other hand, increased consumption of red meat, dairy products and processed foods resulted in an increase in the severity and death due to Covid in the western populations. These foods "activate cytokine storm-related pathways, intussusceptive angiogenesis, hypercapnia and enhance blood glucose levels due to high contents of sphingolipids, palmitic acid and by-products such as CO2 and LPS" they wrote in the study. Palmitic acid - the most common

saturated fatty acid found in the

human body - also induces ACE2

expression and increases the infection rate, the team said. Coffee and alcohol that are highly consumed in western countries also led to an increase in severity and death rates from Covid-19 by dereg-

ulating blood iron, zinc and triglyceride levels. For the study, the team used blood transcriptomes of severe Covid-19 patients from three western countries (showing high fa-

tality) and two datasets from Indian patients.

# international



The deep mutual suspicion and fundamental distrust between the US and **China will not improve** anytime soon and it will mean big trouble for the rest of the world LEE HSIEN LOONG | PM, SINGAPORE

#### **GIANT T-REX CLAWS IN \$6MN**

The skeleton of a giant Tyrannosaurus Rex, a creature that roamed the Earth 67 million years ago, sold for 5.5 million Swiss francs (\$6.13 million) by an undisclosed buyer in Zurich, Tuesday. It was the first time in Europe and the third time worldwide that an entire T-Rex skeleton was offered at an auction





support the position of our Venezuelan friends. It is their country. And we are going to support it in any way

so that the Venezuelan economy becomes an independent economy from the pressures of the United States and other western actors

SERGEY LAVROV FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

I don't think we are yet doing enough to protect our infrastructure from the cyber threats emerging from

Russia-aligning groups LINDY CAMERON | CHIEF OF NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE, BRITAIN

The rapid

growth of trade between the **United States and** India is a testament to the ties between our democracies

growing stronger as our partnership increases both the prosperity and the security of our nations and the broader world

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI CONGRESSMAN. US

### SHORT TAKES

### **Biden, First Lady** earned \$579,514

Washington: America's first couple didn't do too badly last year, earning \$579,514, although this was a good chunk less than the previous year, according to Joe and Jill Biden's tax return, made public Tuesday. Biden has restored a custom designed to demonstrate transparency at the White House, the most notable exception to the unwritten rule being his predecessor Donald Trump who consistently refused to release his annual income and tax report. The president and first lady's joint return showed gross income of nearly \$580,000 in 2022, which was \$30,000 less than in the previous year's filing.

### New case against jailed Navalny

Moscow: Moscow has opened a new criminal case against Russia's top opposition politician Alexei Navalny, who is already serving a nine-year prison sentence, his spokeswoman said Tuesday. "A new criminal case was opened against Alexei Navalny while he's in prison as a result of a 'provocation'," Kira Yarmysh said. Yarmysh said it was the tenth case against the Kremlin critic, who was already facing up to 35 years in prison. In the latest case, Navalny is accused of "disorganisation of the activity of penitentiary institutions" which could see him face five more years in prison.

### Fox News settles **US disinfo suit**

Washington: Fox News averted a potentially humiliating defamation trial after a last-minute settlement Tuesday, but it took a reputational beating that observers said was unlikely to spur the influential broadcaster to tame its "disinformation engine." The network, one of the most powerful and profitable in the United States, agreed to a \$787.5 million settlement in a lawsuit launched by voting technology company Dominion over its coverage of false rigging claims in the 2020 election.

## 21-yr-old Panda dies

Bangkok: A giant panda on loan from China to Thailand who captivated animal lovers through a 24-hour live broadcast of her antics died Wednesday aged 21. Lin Hui was the last of three pandas in Thailand and was due to return to China in October.

## South Asia leads number of child brides globally

There were 290 million child brides in the region, accounting for 45% of the global total

New Delhi, April 19: South Asia is home to highest number of child brides in the world as increased financial pressures and school closures due to Covid-19 forced families to marry off their young daughters, according to new estimates released by UNICEF Wednesday.

There were 290 million child brides in the region, accounting for 45% of the global total, the children's agency of the United Nations said, calling for more efforts to end the practice.

"The fact that South Asia has

the highest child marriage burden in the world is nothing short of tragic," said Noala Skinner, UNICEF's regional director for South Asia, said in a statement.

A new study by the agency that also included interviews and discussions across 16 locations in Bangladesh, India and Nepal found that many parents saw marriage as the best option for daughters who had limited options to study during Covid lockdowns.

The legal age of marriage for females is 20 in Nepal, 18 in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and 16 in Afghanistan. It is 16 in Pakistan except for Sindh province, where



the minimum age is 18.

The UN study also found that families were pushed by financial strains during the pandemic to marry their daughters young in order to reduce costs at home.

The agency said potential solutions identified in discussions include enacting social protection measures to counter poverty, protecting every child's right to education, ensuring an adequate framework to enforce the law and making more efforts to address social norms.

"We must do more and

girls out of learning, puts their health and wellbeing at risk and compromises their future. Every girl who gets married as a child is one girl too many'

NOALA SKINNER | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH ASIA, UNICEF

strengthen partnerships to empower girls through education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and equipping them with skills, while supporting communities to come together to end this deeply rooted practice," said Björn Andersson, Asia-Pacific regional director of the United Nations Population Fund.

## **UN to withdraw from Afghan over Taliban's** curbs on women

AGENCIES

New York, April 19: The UN has said it is ready to withdraw from Afghanistan in May if it cannot convince the Taliban to permit local women to work for the organization, the head of the UN Development Program said, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

The UN is negotiating with the Taliban in hopes that it will make exceptions to a decree prohibiting local women from working for the organization.

UNDP Administrator, Achin Steiner, said: "It is fair to say that where we are right now is the entire United Nations system having to take a step back and re-evaluate its ability to operate there. But it is not about negotiating fundamental principles, human rights."

The United Nations recently expressed "serious concerns" after the Afghan female UN staff members were banned from reporting to work in the eastern province of Afghanistan, Nangarhar, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press 'The United Nations in

Afghanistan expresses serious concern that female national UN staff have been prevented from reporting to work in Nangarhar province.

The UN warned the Taliban that the life-saving aid would be at risk without female staff since most of the International organization's staff are female. 'We remind de facto authori-

ties that United Nations entities cannot operate and deliver lifesaving assistance without female staff," the UN said on Twitter, Khaama Press reported.

International organizations, including the UN, have repeatedly expressed their concerns over excluding women from the aid sector, saying that without female staff, the organizations will be unable to reach needy women.

The Taliban since it came to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, has imposed bans on women and girls, preventing them from education and employment. The Taliban first banned girls

from going to school beyond sixth grade; in December 2022, a decree prohibited Afghan women from higher education and working with national and international NGOs

ful people of Afghanistan.

## No respite in Sudan as truce falls apart

**DEATH TOLL HAS RISEN TO AT LEAST 270 SINCE THE** VIOLENCE ERUPTED **OVER THE WEEKEND** 

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khartoum, April 19: Fighting between forces loyal to rival generals raged in Sudan for a fifth day Wednesday after an internationally brokered truce quickly fell apart.

Sustained gunfire, artillery attacks and airstrikes rocked the capital Khartoum and the city of Omdurman across the Nile River. Residents reported clashes

around the military headquarters and near the international airport. "The battles intensified in the

morning after sporadic gunfire over the night," said Tahani Abass. a prominent rights advocate who lives close to the military head-A 24-hour cease-fire was to have

been in effect from sundown Tuesday to sundown Wednesday, with the warring sides pledging publicly to abide by it after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to both generals. Their failure to pause fighting for

even a day, despite high-level diplomatic pressure, suggests they remain bent on pursuing a military victory and raises the potential for a prolonged conflict.

Sudanese in the capital and in other cities have been hiding in their homes, caught in the cross-



fire as rival forces pounded residential areas with artillery and airstrikes and engaged in gunbattles outside.

The director-general of the UN's World Health Organisation, Tedros Ghebreyesus, said at least 270 people have been killed and more than 2,600 wounded since fighting began Saturday without offering a breakdown of civilians and combatants killed.

The Sudan Doctors' Syndicate, which monitors casualties, said Tuesday that at least 174 civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded, but the toll is believed to be much higher as bodies in the street have been unreachable because of ongoing fighting.

Dozens of health care facilities close to the clashes in Khartoum and in hot spots across the country stopped functioning, either because they were damaged or had to be evacuated for safety reasons.

The conflict between the armed forces, led by Gen Abdel Fattah Burhan, and a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has once again derailed Sudan's transition to democratic rule after decades of dictatorship

HORRIFIC HEAT

## **Heatwave engulfs Asia** EXTREME TEMPERATURES DESCRIBED AS 'WORST APRIL HEATWAVE IN ASIAN

HISTORY' AS RECORDS THREATENED IN INDIA, CHINA, THAILAND AND LAOS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangkok, April 19: A severe heatwave has swept across much of Asia, causing deaths and school closures in India and record-breaking temperatures in China, media reports said Tuesday.

Maximiliano Herrera, a climatologist and weather historian, de scribed the unusually high temperatures as the "worst April heatwave in Asian history", The Guardian reported.

In China, local media reported that record temperatures for April had been observed in many locations, including Chengdu, Zhejiang, Nanjing, Hangzhou and other areas of the Yangtze River delta region.

Unusually hot temperatures have also been reported in south east Asia, including in Luang Prabang, Laos, which recorded 42.7 degrees Celsius this week, the highest reliable temperature in its history, according to Herrera. In Thailand, the meteorological

department said temperatures reached 44.6 degrees in Tak province Sunday - matching the previous record reached in Mae Hong Son April 28, 2016. It is predicted that temperatures could reach 45 degrees this week, The Guardian reported.

forefront of the climate crisis, temperatures soared above 40 degrees in the capital, Dhaka, Saturday, the hottest day in 58 years, causing

road surfaces to melt. An official from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change said that if the heat did not abate, they would declare a temperature emer-

gency in certain areas In recent years, India has become particularly vulnerable to extreme heat and experts fear this vear could be even worse. The April heatwave has battered north and east Indian states, with this week, the meteorological department issuing an orange warning of a severe heatwave in parts of Bihar. Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, The Guardian reported.

Six cities in north and east India recorded temperatures above 44C while the capital, Delhi, recorded 40.4 degrees Celsius Tuesday. The heatwave is expected to continue until at least Friday.

The high temperatures in India have prompted school closures in some states, while 13 people died and a further eight received medical

treatment due to sunstroke after an award event that was held outdoors in Maharashtra state. Temperatures rose above 30 de-

grees Celsius in Japan, with Minamata in Kumamoto prefecture reaching 30.2 degrees Celsius, an April record for the area. Highly unusual temperatures for this month have also been recorded in central Asia, including in Kazakhstan, where 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Taraz, a record for April, and in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The unusually hot weather has

also prompted health warnings in Thailand, where the health department warned of the risk of heatstroke, especially for people who exercise or work for long hours outside, such as construction workers and farmers.

There are fears that the high temperatures could continue in Thailand beyond the usual summer months, causing drought and potential crop failure.

## The suppressive restrictions on women are confronted with massive criticism by national and international organizations warning that it will disrupt the humanitarian aid to the most need-

## THE SKY

## Kim to launch first spy satellite

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, April 19: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country has built its first-ever military spy satellite and that he planned to launch it on an undisclosed date, state media reported Wednesday.

Previous missile and rocket tests have demonstrated that North Korea can send satellites into space, but many experts question whether it has cameras sophisticated enough to use for spying from a satellite because only low-resolution images were released after past test

During his visit to the country's aerospace agency Tuesday,



Kim said that having an operational military reconnaissance satellite is crucial for North Korea to effectively use its nuclear-capable missiles.

Kim cited what he described as serious security threats posed by "the most hostile rhetoric and explicit action" by the United States and South Korea this year, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. He likely hopes to pressure his

rivals on issues including joint military drills and international economic sanctions on North Korea.

Kim said "the military reconnaissance satellite No 1" had already been built and ordered officials to speed up preparations for its launch.

North Korea intends to use its reconnaissance satellites to identify key targets in South Korea, including US military bases, in order to attack them with shortrange missiles. It has carried out about 100 missile tests since the start of last year, including about



Iraqi Yazidis visit the Lalish Temple, on the day of a ceremony for the occasion of Red Wednesday, the celebration of the Yazidi New Year, in Shekhan district, in Duhok province, Iraq

## New York: World's richest city again

The US city also known as 'The Big Apple' is home to over 3 lakh millionaires, 724 centi-millionaires, and 58 billionaires

Washington, April 19: Once again, New York has taken the crown of being the world's richest city, with the most millionaires in 2023, according to a report. The city has 3,40,000 millionaires, according to global wealth tracker Henley & Partners

The city is followed by Tokyo and San Francisco Bay Area with resident millionaire populations of 290.300 and 285,000, respectively.

The report – World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023 - covers 97 cities across nine regions worldwide (Africa, Australasia, CIS, East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia) and includes most of the world's top wealth hubs.



World's two largest stock exchanges by market cap the NYSE and the Nasdag - are located in New York

The US dominated the list with four of its cities - New York, The Bay Area, Los Angeles and Chicago making it to the list. China has two of its cities (Beijing and Shanghai) in the list.

pass all countries with 10 of the 50 richest cities in the world, with New York followed by Tokyo, California's Bay Area, London and Singapore

London has dropped to fourth place on this year's list with 258,000 resident high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), followed by city-state Singapore with 240,100. In 2000, London was the top city in the world for millionaires, but it has slipped down the list over the past 20 years.

The Big Apple - a nickname for New York City - is home to 3,40,000 millionaires, 724 centi-millionaires, and 58 billionaires. It is home to the world's two largest stock exchanges by market cap (the NYSE and the Nasdaq).

The city comprises the five bor oughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, and features some of the world's most exclusive residential streets, including 5th Avenue in Manhattan where prime apartment prices can exceed \$27,000 per square meter, according to the report.

## REUTERS

Seoul, April 19: South Korea might extend its support for Ukraine beyond humanitarian and economic aid if it comes under a large-scale civilian attack, President Yoon Suk Yeol said, signalling a shift in his stance against arming Ukraine for the first time.

In an interview ahead of his state visit to the US next week, Yoon said his government has been exploring how to help defend and rebuild Ukraine, just as South Korea received international assistance during the 1950-53 Korean War.

"If there is a situation the international community cannot condone, such as any large-scale attack on civilians, massacre or serious violation of the laws of war, it might be difficult for us to insist only on humanitarian or financial support," Yoon said.

It was the first time that Seoul suggested a willingness to provide weapons to Ukraine, more than a year after ruling out the possibility of lethal aid.

In a first, SK to arm Ukraine

A key US ally and major producer of artillery ammunition, South Korea has so far tried to avoid antagonising Russia due to its companies operating there and Moscow's influence over North Korea.

In response, the Kremlin said supplying arms to Ukraine would make Seoul a participant in the conflict. "Unfortunately, Seoul has taken a rather unfriendly position in this whole story," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "They will try to draw more and more countries directly into this conflict. But of course, the start of arms deliveries willobliquely mean a certain stage of involvement in this conflict.'





That showing helped the US sur-



# business



**Unfortunately, the Customs** is insisting for Bill of Entry and not accepting Bill of Lading date. hence shipments are held up since 1st April 2023. We request the government to address the matter immediately, else it may lead to shortages and rise in retail prices AJAY JHUNJHUNWALA | PRESIDENT, SEA

#### **APPLE'S 2ND STORE TO OPEN TODAY**

Apple CEO Tim Cook will welcome customers at the inauguration of the iconic iPhone maker's first official store in the national capital at Select Citywalk Mall Thursday, according to sources



Windfall tax back on

local crude oil; duty

on diesel exports nil

Oil prices have shot up this month following

a surprise cut in production announced

by the producers' cartel OPEC and

its allies like Russia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ficial order.

New Delhi, April 19: The gov-

ernment has brought back the

windfall profit tax on domesti-

cally produced crude oil after in-

ternational prices firmed up while

the levy on export of diesel has

been cut to nil, according to an of-



important role in India's agricultural



KAPIL DEV CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, NCDE

The Inflation **Reduction Act** in the US is a significant driver for investments in solar. The fundamentals strong demand for the energy transition worldwide, especially in

Europe and the United States RAJ PRABHU | CEO, MERCOM CAPITAL GROUP

We have witnessed over two-fold jump in the January-March quarter this year. We are on a growth path and are confident of

a bullish performance through the

BALBIR SINGH DHILLON | HEAD, AUDI INDIA

## SHORT **TAKES**

### Steel firms clear ₹7,673.95cr dues

New Delhi: Governmentowned steel companies have cleared ₹7.673.95 crore dues of various MSMEs during FY23. 39.3 per cent higher than ₹5,511.07 crore paid during the preceding fiscal, the steel ministry said. "The status of pending payments to MSMEs by CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) of the ministry is being monitored on a weekly basis to ensure payments to them within the 45 days' time limit for such payments," it said. A payment of ₹876.10 crore was made by steel CPSEs to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during March 2023, up 38.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) and 23.1 per cent higher than the previous month, the ministry

## **Mankind Pharma** sets IPO price band

New Delhi: Drug maker Mankind Pharma Wednesday said it has fixed a price band of ₹1,026-1,080 a share for its ₹4,326-crore initial public offering (IPO). The three-day initial public offering (IPO) will open for subscription during April 25-27, and the bidding for anchor investors will open April 24, the company announced. The company's IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 40,058,844 equity shares by promoters and other existing shareholders.

### **Absolut Vodka halts** exports to Russia

Stockholm: The maker of Sweden's Absolut vodka said Tuesday it was ceasing all exports to Russia after calls to boycott the brand flared up in Sweden and on social media. The Absolut Company said it "has decided to stop the export of its brand to Russia." Stephanie Durroux, chief executive of The Absolut Company, said in a statement that the company is exercising its "duty of care towards our employees and partners, we cannot expose them to massive criticism in all forms".

## UK inflation over 10%

London: The price of food in the UK rose at the fastest pace in 45 years last month in, keeping inflation above 10 per cent for a seventh straight month amid a costof-living crisis that has fuelled a wave of strikes by government workers. Food prices jumped 19.2 per cent in the 12 months through February, the biggest increase since August 1977, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. Overall, consumer price inflation eased to 10.1 per cent, from 10.4 per cent the previous month, as the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel fell.

### FROM BOOM TO DOOM

# Startups struggle to swell

*India's startups - which* are far more reliant on foreign capital than global peers - have seen a severe funding squeeze, which some executives say is also partly due to investors realising that they misjudged consumption growth

Mumbai, April 19: A funding squeeze at Indian startups that has already led to layoffs and delayed stock listings is set to worsen as investors reckon with stretched valuations and faltering consumption growth, likely laying the ground for industry consolidation.

Startups in India raised just \$2 billion in the first quarter of 2023, 75% lower than the same period of last year, and the smallest quarterly number in nearly three years, figures from data firm CB Insights showed.

The slowdown is a setback for startups as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has lauded their success by calling such companies the "backbone of new India". It could hurt India's economic growth and its jobs market.

The prospect of fast rising consumption both offline and in India's digital space helped many start-

**MFs' SIP collection** 

surges 25% in FY23

New Delhi, April 19: Inflows in

the mutual fund industry through

systematic investment plans or

SIPs reached ₹1.56 lakh crore in

2022-23, up 25 per cent from the

preceding fiscal, suggesting retail

investors' trust in the route de-

In comparison, an inflow of ₹1.24

lakh crore through the route was

registered in 2021-22 and ₹96,080

crore in 2020-2021, data with the

Association of Mutual Funds in

India (Amfi) showed. Moreover,

mutual fund SIP contribution has

seen over three-fold rise during

the last seven years. It was at ₹43,921

Additionally, SIP book has also

grown consistently from ₹12,328

crore in March 2022 to an all-time

high of ₹14,276 crore in March 2023,

indicating a growth of 16 per cent.

inflows averaged nearly ₹13,000

crore flows per month, helping

investors to stay in the stock mar-

ket and benefit from rupee cost

averaging. The steady inflow sug-

gests resilience in domestic mar-

ket which have been a strong coun-

terbalance to FPIs (Foreign

SIP is an investment methodol-

ogy offered by mutual funds

wherein an individual saver can in-

vest a fixed amount in a chosen

scheme periodically at fixed in-

tervals -- say once a month, instead

of making a lump sum investment.

The SIP instalment amount can

be as small as ₹500 per month.

Portfolio Investors) selling.

During the financial year, SIP

crore during 2016-2017.

spite volatility in the markets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

This is a fundamental reset, not just another blip. I don't think I'll again see a record fundraise vear like 2021 at least for a decade

VT BHARADWAJ | FORMER MD.

ups clock multi-billion-dollar valuations in recent years, with the likes of Sequoia and Tiger Global betting big on businesses which burnt cash to lure consumers in the country of 1.4 billion people.

Global factors such as high rates and inflation have weighed on the investment climate in India and elsewhere - startup funding in the US dropped by around half to \$32.5 billion in the first quarter, while in China it fell 60% to \$5.6 billion

Indian VC firm Blume Ventures said in an April report consumption outside the top 30 million Indian households dropped sharply, and is driven by a "tiny superuser set". Despite India's billion-plus pop-

ulation, food-delivery company Zomato has just 50 million annual Indian startups witness job losses

■ Startup crisis, slowdown could impact India's jobs market

- India Q1 2023 startup funding stood at \$2bn,
- Funding in the US dip by around half in O1: China fell 60%
- Only 271 startups raised funding, compared with

transacting users and state-backed digital money transfer service UPI is used by just 260 million, the report said. "Indian startups are not catering to a billion consumers. All of them are selling to the same 100 million. The (consumer) market seems 2-3 times inflated," said Ankit Nagori, a former top executive of Walmart's e-commerce arm Flipkart who now runs cloud kitchen startup Curefoods.

## FEWER DEALS, CONSOLIDATION IN

The first signs of discontent in the Indian market came after the flop listing of loss-making digital payments firm Paytm in 2021, following which investors and regulators raised questions on whether At current run rate, startups may end up raising less than \$10 billion this year, a far cry from the record \$30 billion garnered in 2021 and \$20 billion in 2022

valuations of many startups were unrealistic. Since then, things have gotten worse. Six investor sources and three startup founders told Reuters they expect the funding environment to worsen and many multi-billion-dollar firms to cut valuations within two years.

In recent weeks, BlackRock internally halved the valuation of Indian online education firm Byju's it has invested in to \$11.15 billion from \$22 billion, while Invesco slashed food delivery firm Swiggy's valuation by a quarter to \$8 billion, disclosures from the US in-

After leading the funding boom in India for years, Japan's SoftBank has not made a single new investment in the country in the last one year as it waits for a further correction in valuations, two people familiar with its planning said.

SoftBank did not respond to a request for comment. It invested \$3 billion in Indian companies in 2021 and another \$500 million in 2022, by April that year, Reuters calcu-

## Indian, Nepali pvt firms sign deal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kathmandu, April 19: In a major boost for energy cooperation between Nepal and India, private entities and companies of both countries Wednesday inked an agreement for selling and buying energy directly.

Earlier, this power was only enjoyed by two government or government-owned entities. Now the Nepal government has to make a law to allow the private sector to sell energy directly to external private The agreement was signed dur-

**DIRECT ENERGY SALE** 

ing the final day of the eighth Power Summit, inaugurated by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

According to Independent Power Producers Association, Nepal, the summit is the largest power sector event in Nepal, with 800 energy sector-related participants - energy trading companies, power producers, financial institutions, transmission and distribution companies, consulting companies, vendors, and think tanks, among other

stakeholders - participating, including 800 international delegates from more than 30 countries. The largest number of participants were from India.

As per the agreement, Indian private sector hydropower project developers can buy electricity up to 200 MW from Nepal. The Nepal Power Exchange (NEPEX), which was established by the private sector with the aim of trading electricity abroad, signed the agreement with India's Steel Mint with IPPA, Nepal, President Krishna Prasad Acharya and Steel Mint's Kshitiz the signatories.

The government's collection from the SAED, imposed on the ₹40.000 crore in FY2023.

The levy on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is now ₹6,400 per tonne with effect bine fuel (ATF). India first imposed windfall from Wednesday, the order dated April 18 said.

At the last revision on April 4, windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil was cut to nil as international oil prices dipped below \$75 per barrel Alongside, the government cut

the tax on the export of diesel to nil from ₹0.50 per litre. The same on overseas shipments of ATF remains at nil Commenting on the move.

Prashant Vasisht, vice president and co-group Head - corporate ratings, ICRA Ltd, said, "There was a moderation in crude oil prices in March 2023; hence, the special additional excise duty (SAED) was reduced to nil on April 04, 2023. However, the crude oil prices jumped by 9 per cent to around \$85 per barrel post OPEC+ announcement of additional production cuts of 1.16 million barrels per day on April 02, 2023."

Accordingly the SAED on crude production has been increased from nil to ₹6,400 per tonne (\$10.6 per barrel).

ICRA expects government collections from the same to be around ₹15,000 crore for FY24 (April 2023 to March 2024).

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

production of crude oil and the export of petroleum products from July 1, 2022, is estimated at around Crude oil pumped out of the

ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation tur-

profit taxes July 1 last year, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of ₹6 per litre (\$12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and ₹13 a litre (\$26 a barrel) on diesel. A ₹23,250 per tonne (\$40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review and that on ATF was done away with at the March 4 review.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

The government levies tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of \$75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

## NETFLIX'S BUSINESS MODEL FOR INDIA SHINES

**NETFLIX REPORTS HUGE GROWTH IN INDIA** AFTER IT LAUNCHED A LOW-PRICED **SUBSCRIPTION PLAN IN THE COUNTRY IN 2021** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Netflix has slashed subscription rates in 116 countries following the success of its business model in India, the company said Wednesday.

Netflix has seen a 30 per cent growth in customer engagement and 24 per cent revenue growth year-on-year in India after it launched a low-priced subscription plan in the country in 2021.

The company had for the first time reduced subscription prices in the range of 20-60 per cent to suit the India market and deepen its penetration.

"These reductions - combined with an improved slate - helped grow engagement in India by nearly 30 per cent year-on-year while F/X (forex) neutral revenue growth in 2022 accelerated to 24 per cent (versus 19 per cent in 2021). Learning from this success, we reduced prices in an additional 116 countries in Q1,' Netflix said in its earnings re-

port for March 2023 quarter. The countries where Netflix has slashed the price contributed less



NETFLIX SUBSCRIBER BASE TOPS 232MN IN Q1 OF 2023 COMPANY TO SLASH SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN 16 NATIONS

than 5 per cent to its total revenue

during financial year 2022. 'We believe that increasing adop-

tion in these markets will help to maximize our revenue in longer term," the company said. Netflix's global net income declined by about 18 per cent to \$1,305 million in the quarter ended March 2023 from \$1,597 million in the same period a year ago.

The revenue of Netflix, however, grew 3.7 per cent to \$8,162 million during the reported quarter from \$7,868 million in the March 2022 quarter.

The company's paid membership globally grew 4.9 per cent on year-on-year basis to 232.5 million.

Netflix expects its net income to decline by about 1.6 per cent to \$1,283 million in the April-June 2023 quarter while revenue to increase by 3.4 per cent to \$8,242 million.

The company, which has earlier averse to advertisements on its platform, has now started advertisement-based plans with lower subscription price points compared to its initial plans.

"Engagement on our ads tier is above our initial expectations and, as expected, we've seen very little switching from our standard and premium plans," Netflix said.

## TCS best place to work in India, esports cos make it to top

THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT FROM TECH COMPANIES, WHICH DOMINATED THE LIST LAST YEAR, WITH COMPANIES ACROSS FINANCIAL SERVICES, OIL AND GAS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, MANUFACTURING AND GAMING FEATURING IN '2023 TOP COMPANIES INDIA' BY LINKEDIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 19: Tata Consultancy Services has emerged as the top company in a list, which showcases the best places to work

and grow careers. for 2023. TCS is followed by Amazon (2) and Morgan Stanley (3) in the '2023 Top Companies India' list prepared by LinkedIn.

A vast majority of the companies, which is 10 out of 25 companies, are from the financial services/ banking/ fintech space, including companies such as Macquarie Group (5), HDFC Bank

(11), Mastercard (12), and Yubi (14). "In this uncertain environment. professionals are looking for guid-

ance on the companies to work that offer career growth and will set them up for long-term success. The 2023 Top Companies list is filled with actionable insights and resources to help professionals at all levels discover job opportunities," LinkedIn India Managing Editor Nirajita Banerjee said.

Those interested in a specific company can now easily identify the skills and roles being hired for, connect with employees they know in their network, and follow the company to stay informed about future opportunities, she added.

The 2023 Top Companies India list is based on LinkedIn's data to rank companies on eight pillars that have been shown to lead to



career progression, including ability to advance, skills growth, company stability, external opportunity, company affinity, gender diversity, educational background and employee presence in the

Further, the data revealed that companies such as Dream11 (20) and Games24x7 (24) from e-sports and gaming made it to the list for the first time, which is reflective of the growing popularity of gaming and the presence of this sector. There has been an emergence of new players, with 17 out of 25 companies debuting in the list, which demonstrates the strong momentum in India's business ecosystem, it stated.

Zepto (16), which was part of the LinkedIn Top Startups list last year has made it to the top company list this year, which is a testament to the significant scale and growth it has achieved, it noted.

LinkedIn data revealed that the in-demand skills that these top companies are looking for in the technology sector include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Electronics, Software Testing and Computer Security.

Companies in the financial sector are looking for skills such as commercial banking, financial accounting and growth strategies. There is also a growing demand for industrial design and game development, among others, it added.

Some of the largest job functions that these top companies are investing in include engineering, consulting, product management, business development, sales, customer success, design, finance and operations, the data revealed.

Bangalore led as the top location where these top companies are based and looking to hire talent,followed by Mumbai. Hyderabad. Delhi and Pune, it added.







PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Prithvi Shaw, Delhi Capitals' blue-eyed boy till last season, could become the first casualty of the team's floundering IPL campaign as they prepare to take on Kolkata Knight Riders here Thursday.

The 23-year-old talented opener's spot in the playing XI has come under the scanner after the Mumbai

player could managed just 34 runs in five outings this season, with a highest of 15.

With DC having lost all five games so far this season, a rejig of the top order against KKR at the Ferozeshah Kotla in a bid to revive their fortunes could be on the cards.

Sarfaraz Khan, who has earlier been tried as a wicketkeeper-batter, could be drafted in as a specialist opener for powerplay overs, while the other option could be to promote veteran Manish Pandey.

For the David Warner-led side, this is a must-win situation as all routes to playoffs will mathematically be shut if they suffer another defeat

KKR, on the other hand, would like to forget the loss against Sunrisers Hyderabad at home and get on with winning some games. Their skipper Nitish Rana, middleorder batter Rinku Singh and West Indian power-hitter Andre Russell do possess the capability to hammer Delhi Capitals' bowlers, led



by Anrich Nortje and Mustafizur Rahman.

The five consecutive defeats for Delhi are a reminder that they are really thin on resources in the batting department.

The biggest letdown undoubtedly has been Shaw's lack of performance. The former Under-19 captain, who led India to victory during the 2018 U19 World Cup, looks a pale shadow of himself.

Statistics speak so loud and clear: Shaw scored 479 runs in 2021 and 283 in 10 games last year. But this year he has looked completely out

of sorts against quick bowlers, making his position untenable. He was run out for a duck in the last game against RCB.

While there has been criticism around skipper Warner's slow strike rate, the Australian opener's struggles seem more because he has never got the freedom to accelerate, with wickets falling at the other end. Warner has scored 228 runs in five games at a strike rate of around 116.

The other disappointment has been Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh at No.3. It remains to be seen if Rilee Rossouw and Rovman Powell get back in the mix.

Yash Dhull has a serious technical flaw in his batting and has not been able to rectify the early trigger movement of shuffling towards the off-stump, making him an ideal candidate for LBW decisions to incoming deliveries. DC's bench strength too is pretty poor and that's one of the reasons even out-of-form players are not being replaced.

For KKR, Englishman Jason



Roy could replace Rahamanullah Gurbaz in the opener's slot with N Jagadeesan keeping wickets. It will also be leg-spinner Suyash Sharma's first senior-level game at his home ground.

However, all eyes will be on Nitish and Rinku, the two powerhitters who will be out to entertain the capacity crowd along with Russell and the in-form Venkatesh Iyer, who is fresh from his century against MI, albeit in losing cause.

another six runs to his total, Rahul got another chance when Jason

Holder, who normally has a safe pair

of hands, dropped a skyer after

running backwards from mid-off.

had a shy at the bowler's end and

missed a run out chance with Rahul

well out of crease. Those two missed

chances miffed Samson no end but

RR did not have to pay a heavy

price as Rahul got out for an un-

Having consumed that many de-

liveries, Rahul would have liked

to carry his bat though the RR in-

nings, but Holder had him with a

nicely executed slower ball. After

conceding only two runs in the

first two overs and 13 in his third,

Boult, deservedly, got on the wicket

column when he knocked over

The missed chances notwith-

standing, the RR bowlers were par-

simonious and kept LSG to 37 for

no loss in the six powerplay overs

on a pitch that wasn't the best for

find the boundaries, including going

down the ground to hit Yuzvendra

Chahal over long off for a maxi-

mum in the ninth over. Four balls

later, Rahul got into the act by smok-

On and off, Mayers managed to

Ayush Badoni's leg stump.

convincing 32-ball 39

This was seven balls after Jaiswal

# PUNJAB WARY OF DHAWAN INJURY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, April 19: Punjab Kings (PBKS) would be sweating over skipper Shikhar Dhawan's injury at a time when they need all their firepower against an extremely tough but luckless Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in an IPL match here Thursday.

Dhawan, 37, who is one of the bright spots in the PBKS team, was ruled out against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) n April 15 in Lucknow due to a shoulder injury and England all-rounder Sam Curran marshalled the side during their two-wicket win at the Ekana Stadium.

There were several unlikely heroes, who put their hands up in the game, with 36-year-old Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza emerging the leading run-getter for the side with a polished 57, while Matthew Short, Harpreet Singh and Tamil Nadu cricketer M Shahrukh Khan guided the team to the finish line.

But, RCB are a much bigger threat on paper than LSG, and Curran would know he too will need to come to the party with the bat if they are to defeat Faf du Plessis' side and earn two points

Curran's iffy form with the bat has been a concern, as he could manage just six runs against LSG. though his three wickets played a key role in restricting KL Rahul's side to 159/8.

PBKS' top order looks solid when Dhawan is around, but with a question mark over his fitness, his opening partner Prabhsimran Singh will have to play sensibly and also hope his partner plays a responsible knock, which was miss-

ing against LSG Both Prabhsimran (4) and his



630 million on new signings. A

club that won the Champions

League twice under former owner

Roman Abramovich now appears

certain to miss out on the com-

With the battle for the top four

increasing in intensity in the light

of a resurgent Arsenal, an im-

proving Manchester United and

a Saudi-backed Newcastle,

Chelsea's route back to European

club soccer's elite competition

Chelsea's slide has been sud-

den. Just two years ago, the London

club won the Champions League

for a second time in their history,

under manager Thomas Tuchel.

hugely popular among fans, was

fired earlier in the season and re-

placed by Graham Potter, who

suffered the same fate at the start

Lampard's arrival has not

prompted an upturn in form, with

his team scoring just once in its

four losses since his appointment.

That lack of cutting edge was ev-

ident again in the quarterfinals sec-

ond leg against Madrid as Chelsea

The home team was made to

pay for those misses as Madrid

struck twice on the break.

Rodrygo opened the scoring in

the 58th minute when turning in

Vinicius' cutback. He added a sec-

ond in the 80th, this time after

Federico Valverde's assist. He

might have had a hat-trick if

not for a first-half effort hitting

the outside of the post.

missed a host of chances.

of this month.

The German manager, who was

may not be straight forward.

petition next season.

their two left-armers - Arshdeep Singh and Curran – at the forefront, while South African pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada has only added to the potency.

While PBKS, currently fifth with six points from five outings, have been performing at an optimum level as the IPL season looks set to enter its fourth weak, the only thing holding them back from making it to the top is their brittle batting, which has more often than not been shored up by Dhawan the 99 against Sunrisers Hyderabad being a case in point.

In contrast, RCB have been unlucky when it comes to eking out wins. With skipper du Plessis and Virat Kohli opening the innings, they perhaps have the best opening pair in the tournament, barring, of course, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler for Rajasthan Royals.

With Glenn Maxwell coming in at No.4 and Shahbaz Ahmed, Dinesh Karthik and Suyash Prabhudessai following the Australian, RCB bat really deep. But their biggest flaw, unfortunately, is the same as PBKS - an inconsistent top order.

With Kohli (6) and Mahipal Lomror (0) being dismissed cheaply against CSK, the onus to rebuild the innings, while chasing CSK's mammoth 226, fell on du Plessis and Maxwell's shoulders. They did exceptionally well on a belter of a wicket in Bengaluru but the team fell short by eight runs.

The close losses have, unfortunately, left RCB taking a back-seat on the IPL table - they are placed eighth with four points from five matches. The side still has many opportunities to up its game and be in contention for the playoffs, but in a fast-paced tournament like the IPL, things change dra-



## Intercontinental Cup to be held in Bhub, June 9-18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: The third edition of the Hero Intercontinental Cup football tournament which will have three other teams besides hosts India, will be held in Bhubaneswar, June 9-18. Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu are the other three teams taking part in the tournament.

Out of the four participating sides, Lebanon is the highest ranked in the latest FIFA chart at 99, while India is at 101. Vanuatu (164) and Mongolia (183) are ranked lower than India.

India won the inaugural edition of the tournament held in Mumbai in 2018 but finished a disappointing fourth and last in the previous tournament in Ahmedabad in 2019.

"Imphal had experienced the joy of international football in March, and now it's Bhubaneswar's turn to join the country's growing map of international venues for men's football," AIFF Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran sajd

"Bhubaneswar was one of the venues of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, and with that, we have seen some excellent infrastructure being developed by the Government of Odisha," he said.

"It is a legacy that the U-17 Women's World Cup has left behind and has paved the path for the Senior Men's National Team to now play in the city for the first time in its history

The Blue Tigers are currently on a five-match unbeaten streak on June 8 last year with a 2-0 win over Cambodia in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Round 3 in Kolkata.

# LSG gun down Royals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, April 19: The pitch was far from conducive for batting, but the bowlers still had a job to do, and the ones at Lucknow Super Giants did that with aplomb for a 10-run win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here Wednesday.

Chasing 155, RR were stopped at 144/6 as their return to the Sawai Mansingh Stadium after four years ended in disappointment, despite a creditable outing with the ball earlier in the evening. RR openers Jos Buttler (40, 41b,

4x4, 1x6) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (44, 35b, 4x4, 2x6) knew that playing strokes wouldn't be easy on this track, but they managed to keep pace with the required run rate. However, LSG staged a remark-

able comeback to emerge winners in the end. LSG waited quite a bit before bringing their impact player Amit Mishra into action. And for their first breakthrough, they had to wait till the 12th over, when Jaiswal cut Marcus Stoinis (2/28) to the short third man fielder Avesh Khan, who seemed to have injured his hand while completing a low catch.

Despite losing a wicket, RR were still in the driver's seat but that changed after Sanju Samson (2) was run out following a horrible mix up with Buttler. The game turned on its head when Buttler holed out to deep midwicket to RR at 97/3 in the 14th over

Shimron Hetmyer (2) joined Devdutt Padikkal (26) in a crucial was out caught in the deep off the bowling of Avesh (3/25). RR could-



Earlier, Kyle Mayers top-scored with 51 (42b, 4x4, 3x6) before Stoinis (21) and Nicholas Pooran (28) helped the team reach 154/7. Trent Boult (1/16) bowled exceptionally, while Ravichandran Ashwin (2/23) was also excellent with the ball.

Boult sent down two brilliant overs to justify RR skipper Samson's decision to field first after winning the toss. As Boult went about his task in his usual manner, KL Rahul looked clueless and the pressure created by the crafty bowler got to the struggling LSK captain.

Unable to free his arms, Rahul ended up plaving a Sandeep Sharma delivery in the air but the young Jaiswal fluffed the chance. He was on six at the time. After he added

#### ing the leg-spinner for a huge six over the deep mid wicket fence.

**BRIEF SCORES** LSG 154/7 (Kyle Mayers 51, KL Rahul 39, Nicholas Pooran 29, Marcus Stoinis 21; Ravichandran Ashwin 2/23, Trent Boult 1/16) beat RR 144/6 (Yashasvi Jaiswa 44, Jos Buttler 40, Devdutt Padikkal 26; Avesh Khan 3/25, Marcus Stoinis

## AC Milan beat Napoli, rejoin elite in CL semis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Naples (Italy), April 19: Serie A champion last season. A Champions League semifinalist this season. AC Milan are regaining their pedigree as a European power after a turbulent stretch marked by the end of Silvio Berlusconi's ownership and financial issues.

The seven-time continental champions reached the last four of the Champions League with a 1-1 draw at Napoli Tuesday with a first-half goal from Olivier Giroud proving Also, Milan goalkeeper Mike

Maignan blocked a late penalty from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Napoli's standout winger, with Giroud also having a penalty kick saved before his goal. Victor Osimhen equalised for Napoli with a header in stoppage time.

Milan advanced on 2-1 aggregate in the all-Italian matchup after beating the runaway Serie A leader 1-0 in the first leg.

Milan's semifinal opponent will be either city rival Inter Milan or Benfica. Inter hold a 2-0 advantage entering the second leg against the Portuguese club at the San Siro Wednesday.

Giroud scored two minutes before the break with a goal that was largely produced by the work of Milan's prized winger Rafael Leao.

Leao gained possession in Milan's own half and slalomed his way past Napoli's entire defense before unselfishly picking out the unmarked Giroud to slot home into an empty net after pulling goalkeeper Alex Meret out of position.



Earlier, Meret had been the star, first by swatting away a penalty from Giroud that Leao had earned then blocking yet another clear look from Giroud.

Milan's seven European Cup and Champions League titles rank second only to Madrid's 14 but the Rossoneri last raised the trophy back in 2007. Milan's Serie A title last year was also their first since 2011.

Napoli, meanwhile, can now focus on closing out their first Serie A title in more than 30 years, since Maradona led the southern club to their only two Italian league championships in 1987 and 1990. Napoli holds a seemingly insurmountable 14-point lead over Lazio with eight rounds remaining.



London, April 19: Real Madrid's pursuit of a 15th European Cup marches on. Chelsea, meanwhile, does not know when it will compete on this elite stage again.

Madrid's 2-0 win at Stamford

Bridge Tuesday completed a 4-0 ag-

gregate victory and saw the Spanish giants advance to the Champions League semifinals for the 11th time in 13 seasons. Rodrygo scored twice in the second half to derail a spirited Chelsea comeback that lasted the

best part of an hour, but ulti-

mately ended in a fourth straight loss under interim manager Frank Lampard. Madrid can continue their quest for more glory in a competition they have won a record 14 times, with either Manchester City or

Bayern Munich to come in the

next round. City were leading Bayern 3-0 after the first leg of the quarterfinals, setting up a likely rematch of last year's semifinals. Madrid scored twice in added time and another in extra time at the Bernabeu last season to win 6-5 on aggregate.

Madrid are already the only team to successfully defend the Champions League in its modern guise - winning it three consecutive times from 2016-18 - and is still in contention to win it backto-back again.

It is a record that no other team can compete with - and with a forward line of Vinicius Junior, Karim Benzema and Rodrygo in such daunting form, the defending champions will take some



Chelsea's miserable campaign, however, is now destined to end without a trophy. Defeat left Lampard fielding questions about

where the 2021 European champion goes after its troubled start to life under new owners Todd

Boehly and Clearlake Capital. Chelsea sit 11th in the Premier

## Prannoy, Sindhu Real sail into CL semifinals to lead Indian team at Sudirman Cup four despite spending around USD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: World No.9 HS Prannoy and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will lead the Indian challenge at the 2023 Sudirman Cup, scheduled in Suzhou, China, from May 14-21.

The senior national selection committee, which met here Tuesday, picked a "balanced" squad with an aim to clinch a first-ever medal in the mixed team championships.

The Indian men had created history last year by winning the prestigious Thomas Cup and hopes of a potential podium finished were raised further following the bronze winning performance in the Asian Mixed Team Championships ear-

lier this year. India have been grouped in Group C along with Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia and their first task will be to make it to the knock-out stage.

Kidambi Srikanth and reigning senior national women's singles champion Anupama Upadhyaya will be the other singles players in the squad.

**INDIAN TEAM** 

Men's singles: HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth (Reserve: Lakshya Sen); Women's singles: PV Sindhu, Anupama Upadhyaya (Reserve: Aakarshi Kashyap); Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty, MR Arjun/Dhruv Kapila; Women's doubles: Gayatri Gopichand/Treesa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa/Tanisha Crasto; **Mixed doubles:** Tanisha Crasto/Sai Pratheek

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